ENTERTAINMENT / G1

PDI's man in Hollywood details Mel Gibson incident, racist /sexist remarks, etc.

NEWS / A2

Gordon accuses Palace of obstructing probe of Owwa funds

WORLD / A24

Israel renews air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs

LIVNG STARS / H3

A Fanny house that the celebrity owner's famous friends love

Diamonds are not girl's best friend, plasma TV is

LAOS NA ANG HIGH SOCIETY... HI-TECH NA!

NEW YORK—DIAMONDS are no longer a girl's best friend.

A new US study found that three of four women would prefer a new plasma TV to a diamond necklace.

The survey, commis-

DIAMONDS/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, August 4, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 237 P18 website: www.inq7.net

HS students invent 1st 'disaster' board game

By Blanche S. Rivera

LIFE CAN BE AS UNCERTAIN AS THE ROLL OF the dice.

A trip to the Visayas disaster area may land one on Cebu, a province in the Philippines' typhoon belt, or on Negros Oriental, where Mt. Kanlaon has exhibited signs of a possible hazardous eruption.

HS STUDENTS/ A8

Two Filipinos die in Lebanon

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE RECORD-BREAKING numbers of breast-feeding mothers in Manila landed the city in the Guinness Book of Records, says Elvira Henares-Esguerra, founding chair of the Children for Breastfeeding Inc., during a press conference on Thursday. Esguerra, who helped organize the event, says that the public display of breast-feeding Filipino mothers showed the world that we are "finally getting to want to do it." *(Story on Page A22.)*

One OFW fell trying to escape employer

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

THE FIRST FILIPINO deaths since the war broke out last month in Lebanon were reported yesterday by Vice President Noli de Castro, head of the task force formed to oversee the emergency repatriation of overseas Filipino workers from the war-torn country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday continued her appeal to Filipino workers in Lebanon to heed her call for a mandatory evacuation, saying the window for their safe departure was getting narrower each day.

De Castro said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) reported that one domestic helper was killed while trying to escape from her employer to join the evacuation, while another fell while reportedly cleaning the window of an apartment.

De Castro last night identified the OFWs as Mary Jane Pangilinan and Michelle Tomagan, who fell on July 26 and 28, respectively, from

TWO FILIPINOS/ A17

"IT'S AN OFW, A DH, IT'S SUPERMAID. President Arroyo on Thursday announces during a televised roundtable discussion that the skills of domestic helpers, who make up 90 percent of OFWs returning from Lebanon, would be upgraded by Tesda for free. Among others, they will be taught language skills and first-aid techniques. LYN RILLON

STATE OF HEALTH

No, GMA does not have a 'fatty liver'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NO, PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo does not have a "fatty liver."

This was the denial from Arthur Yap, chief of the presidential management staff, as rumors continue to circulate that Ms Arroyo has a serious liver ailment.

The President checked into St. Luke's Medical Center on July 27 not only because she was running a fever but also because she was due for her annual physical examination, a Malacañang official, who asked not to be named so as not to jeopardize his/her relations with the President, told the INQUIRER.

The official said that doctors had found the President to have a "fatty liver" caused by a buildup of excess fat in the liver cells.

If unchecked, a fatty liver causes inflammation or hardening and scarring, which leads to liver damage.

The source said the President's fatty liver was most likely brought on by her huge appetite for rich foods, specifically dark chocolates.

Doctors have allegedly ordered Ms Arroyo to cut down on her food intake to keep her weight down.

One doctor, who refused to be identified, said the President's

NO, GMA/ A7

Pacman plans to quit boxing: Is he running for Manila vice mayor?

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Tina G. Santos *in Manila*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—MANny Pacquiao says he plans to hang up his boxing gloves but is coy on whether he's stepping into the political arena.

Placards declaring "Manny for President" were hoisted by jubilant fans that thronged Manila's streets to welcome Pacquiao after his stunning demolition of Mexico's Erik Morales in Las Vegas in January.

All he talked about in an interview with reporters on Wednesday was about running his businesses, especially Manny Pacquiao Promotions.

"It's better to plan early for the future of our family," said

PACMAN/ A8

NPA forms 'hit squads' to get activists' killers

THE COMMUNIST NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY will form assassination teams or "hit squads" across the country to go after the "masterminds and operatives" behind the killings and disappearance of left-wing activists.

The "cowardly and extrajudicial killings and abductions" allegedly perpetrated by "operatives of the Arroyo regime" should be stopped, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said in the July 29 special issue of its official publication, Ang Bayan.

At least 244 activists, including 102 members of the party-list group Bayan Muna, have been killed since 2001 when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office after a military-backed "people power" uprising ousted Joseph Estrada.

Reacting to accusations the continuing murders were part of state policy and that she had not taken definite steps to stop the violence, the President on Tuesday gave law enforcers 10 weeks to send to prison the perpetrators of at least 10 of the killings.

In its directive, the CPP leadership said armed partisans would be selected from the ranks of the NPA guerrillas to

NPA FORMS/ A17

THAT GO AHEAD, MAKE MY DAY SMILE of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago is directed at her former presidential poll rival, former President Fidel Ramos. RYAN LIM

WHEN EX-RIVALS MEET

FVR, Miriam clash over Masinloc deal

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO and former President Fidel Ramos yesterday clashed at a hearing of a joint congressional inquiry into reports linking the latter to an allegedly anomalous $561.7-million deal won by a Malaysian firm associated with Malaysia's ruling party.

Ramos, who Santiago accused of cheating her of victory in the 1992 presidential election, denied he was behind the sale to YNN Pacific Consortium Inc. of the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, which Santiago described as one of the "crown jewels" of the Philippine power industry.

YNN failed to make the $227-million down payment for the sale despite several extensions and a government's announcement it would terminate the contract on Aug. 6.

YNN is believed to be a dummy of

FVR, MIRIAM/ A6

PNP offers ₱100,000 for info on political killings

By Luige A. del Puerto

AS THOUGH TO SHOW ITS DETERMINATION to solve the unabated murders of journalists and leftist activists, the Philippine National Police yesterday offered rewards of P50,000 to P100,000 for information leading to the capture of the killers.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. also said a multisectoral conference on the political killings will be held next week to which representatives of the National Democratic Front (NDF), the Armed Forces and leftist groups have been invited.

The NDF, which is based in the Netherlands, is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

A police statement said the Department of Interior and Local Government and the PNP had approved the rewards "to address the seeming apathy and reluctance of some witnesses to share information."

It said the money would come from the DILG-PNP Reward Program.

But Carl Ala, spokesperson of the militant farmers' alliance Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, was unimpressed.

"In truth, we don't need such a reward because we already know who is masterminding the killings," Ala said.

"That reward might lead to the capture of the trigger men, but not the masterminds ... It's a palliative measure that might just lead to just anybody getting nabbed."

Asked why the amounts put up were small, given the gravity of the situation

PNP OFFERS/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/07/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Palace obstructionist – Gordon

UNDER INVESTIGATION at the JAGO are Marine officers (from right) Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Col. Ariel Querubin, Col. Januario Caringal, and Col. Orlando de Leon.

JOAN BONDOC

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. RICHARD GORDON HAS ACCUSED MALAcañang of being "obstructionist" for barring Executive Branch officials from appearing in the Senate inquiry into the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration alleged fund mess.

Gordon, who filed a bill seeking an amendment to the Migrant Workers Act to counter Palace claims that there was no statute to justify the inquiry, also scoffed at the new Malacañang guidelines for officials appearing at Senate hearings.

"They cannot reject it (invitation). I have pending legislation. If they refuse to do this, if they refuse to accept this, they could be held in contempt of Congress. It is not good," he told a press conference.

"They keep saying that the Senate is obstructionist. They are the obstructionist. Because we have to push legislation along," Gordon said.

The Gordon-initiated Senate inquiry, and another one instigated by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, was prompted by the "piece meal" evacuation of Filipinos from Lebanon, which gave rise to speculation that there was some irregularity in the funds being administered by the OWWA.

Subpoenas

The Senate has issued subpoenas to six officials who snubbed last Monday's hearing on government plans and resources for evacuating Filipinos from Lebanon.

The subpoenas compel Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr., OWWA chief Marianito Roque, Philippine Overseas Employment Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz and Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor to appear at the next hearing on Monday.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, however, has indicated the officials would again skip the hearing as they have to focus their attention on the evacuation of the estimated 40,000 workers from the war-torn Lebanon.

Gordon said this would not help the cause of the Palace in explaining the status of the OWWA funds.

"You are in effect creating a bigger problem because it means you are trying to hide something by not attending," he said.

The senator also said the new Palace guidelines on the appearance of executive officials do not apply to the open public hearing on the OWWA funds being conducted by the labor committee chaired by Estrada.

"That applies to the question hour. It does not apply to congressional investigations in aid of legislation. We do not have to send them questions... They ought to know what questions ought to be asked," he said.

"They cannot tell a co-equal branch of government, you can only ask me questions on this basis. Because that is an inherent power of Congress: to investigate so that you find out if the money is being spent well which comes from Congress and at the same time from the people's money," Gordon said.

Executive privilege

The new guidelines include requiring Congress to cite the statute that prompted the inquiry as well as the questions to be asked, among others. The President is to decide whether the inquiry is in aid of legislation or falls within executive privilege. The official also has to be represented by counsel when he appears in Congress.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said government officials who continue to snub the summons of the Senate could face arrest, citing the case of former Agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, who repeatedly ignored the Senate's summons for him to testify on the alleged misuse of P728 million in fertilizer funds.

As a result, the Senate issued a warrant for Bolante's arrest, which was never served because he flew out of the country. Bolante has since been arrested for immigration violations in the United States. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

Navy has no jail for accused Marines

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY WAS HARD PUT YESTERDAY to explain what appeared to be a double standard in the treatment of the 25 Scout Rangers and 13 Marines officers being investigated for their role in the Feb. 24 failed coup.

A spokesman said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. has left it up to Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino and Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga to decide how to confine or detain the implicated officers.

The Marine Corps is an elite unit under the Navy while the First Scout Rangers Regiment is an elite unit under the Army.

The official explanation: the Navy's detention facility at Fort San Felipe in Sangley Point, Cavite is still being repaired; the accused Marine officers will be detained there as soon as repair work is complete.

"They are subject to military law. The Chief of Staff has left it to the major service commander (to decide) how to handle all of these," said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, the newly installed AFP Public Information Office chief.

The 13 Marines led by former commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and Col. Ariel Querubin are not detained, unlike 19 of the 25 Scout Rangers led by former commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim who were locked up in a maximum security detention facility in Tanay, Rizal, while undergoing investigation.

It turned out six of the Scout Rangers officers implicated in the coup plot are also not detained.

The double standard became apparent at the pre-trial investigation (PTI) hearing held before the Judge Advocate General's Office in Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday.

Nine of the 13 Marine officers casually appeared before the JAGO panel without military escorts or handcuffs.

In contrast, 17 Scout Rangers officers were brought to the hearing from Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, under heavy guard, each handcuffed to a custodian.

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US Embassy gets Senate report on fertilizer fund scam

THE SENATE HAS FURnished the US Embassy in Manila a copy of its agriculture committee report on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam in a bid to block ex-Agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante's petition for political asylum in the United States.

After concluding its inquiry in March, the Agriculture committee recommended the filing of charges against Bolante, the alleged architect of the disbursement of the fund, and other retired and current Agriculture officials before the Ombudsman.

"We have sent the COA (Commission on Audit) audit report, and the Senate report to the US Ambassador... That was acknowledged by Ambassador Kristie Kenney," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., told reporters.

The senator voiced hopes that the documents would eventually be turned over to the immigration courts hearing Bolante's removal case in Los Angeles.

"The more the judge and the lawyers of the Immigration know about this individual, the more they can decide with fairness and justice. It's basically for the information of those concerned," Magsaysay, chair of the Agriculture committee, said.

"If we give all information objectively, then I'm sure the American justice, as we know it, will vindicate itself by not [granting] him political asylum because he's not a political asylum case. He has to be prosecuted; we're not persecuting," he added.

The committee also transmitted a copy of its report, together with voluminous documentary and testimonial evidence, to the Office of the Ombudsman at the close of its series of public hearings spread over six months.

Magsaysay said the documents could boost the case of law experts from the University of the Philippines who said they would contest efforts by Bolante's camp to block third parties from intervening in his application for asylum.

The 20-page amicus brief prepared by the UP Law Center-Institute of International Legal Studies would be filed within the week, the experts said.

Bolante has been held by Immigration authorities at the San Pedro Detention Center since he was arrested at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 7 for supposedly carrying a cancelled visa.

He was set to file last Tuesday a petition for asylum on the ground that communist rebels were out to kill him if he flew back to Manila, a claim denied by the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The following day he appeared before a federal immigration judge in a court at the San Pedro facility. The court granted his motion to keep the proceedings closed to the public and reset the hearing for Aug. 24.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Gov't declares war on janitor fish, other alien species

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED war on catfish and other "alien species" that threaten native wildlife and the environment, an official said yesterday.

"Not only are invasive species threatening our agriculture, fisheries and forests, they are also causing major impacts to human health and tourism," Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a statement.

He singled out the depredations of the South American catfish, also known as the janitor fish, the African catfish, and the golden apple snail.

The troublesome species were either intentionally or accidentally introduced into the Philippine ecosystem and now pose a threat to the existence of native species, he added.

Fisheries officials say the African catfish devours smaller, native species of freshwater fish.

The voracious golden snail, introduced into the Philippines for aquarium enthusiasts, escaped into rice paddies where they eat the plants.

Alien plants that have invaded the country include the fast-growing softwood yemane and Leucaena leucocephala, as well as mahogany, Reyes said.

Reyes called for greater public awareness of invasive alien species and vowed that the government would enforce laws and policies that regulate imports, field release, and breeding of organisms that are potentially harmful to people and the environment. *AFP*

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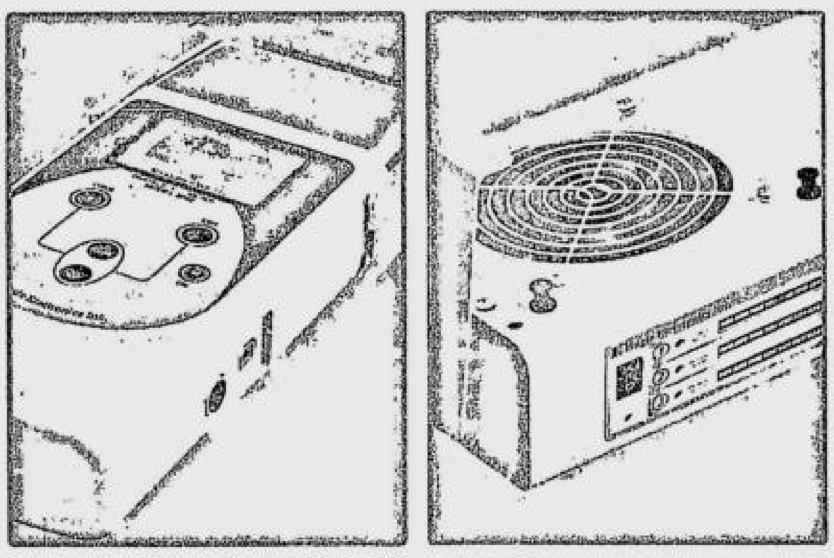

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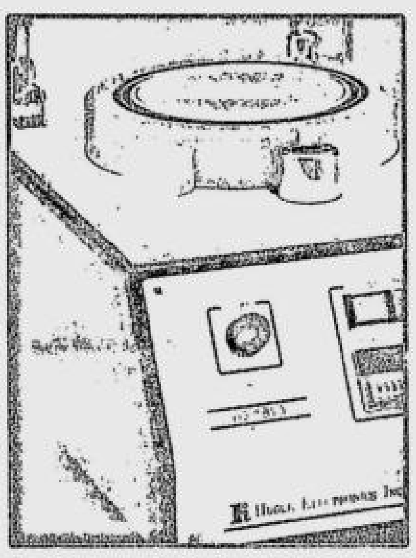

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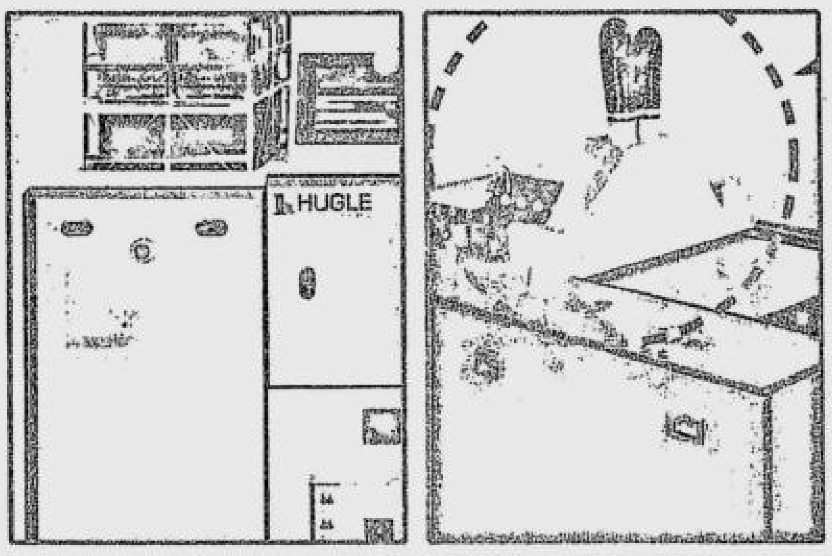

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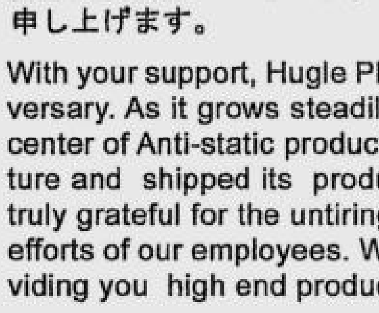

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Lawyer to ask SC to allow use of poll counting machines

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's election lawyer yesterday said he would file an appeal with the Supreme Court to allow the Commission on Elections to use the 1,991 counting machines of the Mega Pacific consortium in the 2007 elections without prejudice to pending court case on the voided contract.

Romulo Macalintal, who represents the President in the impeachment case being planned against her in Congress and Vice President Noli de Castro in the election protest pending in the Supreme Court, said that he was filing the case on a personal basis as a taxpayer and that he did not act on any orders from his client.

"Using the computers will not have any effect on the existing case, the investigations will continue. If anybody is found guilty they should be punished but not at the expense of the elections and our right as taxpayer. These computers will only rot if we do not use them. The Supreme Court itself has not decided that the ACM (automated counting machines) cannot be used by the government," said Macalintal. "We cannot wait for the SC resolution because there won't be enough time to conduct a bidding."

Half paid

The Comelec has already paid half of the P1.25 billion contract price for the 1,991 counting machines to Mega Pacific before the SC voided the deal because of technicalities on the awarding of the contract. The Office of the Ombudsman is currently conducting an investigation on the criminal liability of the Comelec officers and private individuals.

The Ombudsman panel conducting the investigation said it might not be able to meet the Supreme Court deadline to complete its investigation by Aug. 14. Special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the panel may now hold hearings twice instead of once weekly.

"We don't want any matter left untouched," said Villa-Ignacio. He added that the panel will meet today to discuss a petition to the Supreme Court to extend its deadline.

The Department of Science and Technology last month reiterated its previous study which found the Mega Pacific computers to be fully accurate.

Testing before SC

"Based on what I will file, I want the machines to be tested in front of the SC, Comelec, nongovernment organizations, political parties, media and concerned citizens and the DOST will certify that the counting machines could be used," Macalintal said.

In a statement, Mega Pacific welcomed Macalintal's petition to the SC and stated that it was willing to conduct a re-testing of the machines even in Malacañang itself to prove their worthiness and readiness for the elections.

Macalintal said that using the Mega Pacific computers would boost chances of having automated elections next year for "at least 70 percent of the country's polling districts."

Malacañang officials have openly endorsed the use of Mega Pacific's computers with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita saying that this was the most practical way to ensure computerized elections next year and Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor noting that even retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. found nothing wrong with the use of the computers. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

CHIEF SUPT. Yolanda Tanigue takes her oath with the portrait of PNP Chief Oscar Calderon in the background. JOAN BONDOC

'A day for women' at PNP

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE FIRST WOMAN GENERAL OF THE Philippine National Police, Chief Supt. Yolanda Tanigue, yesterday received her star in a ceremony that one prominent woman lawyer described as "saying a lot about the force."

The officers, both men and women, who filled the room where a star, the symbol of her rank, was pinned on Tanigue's shoulders only had one thing to say about her: She deserved it.

The PNP's newest general has her work cut out for her, though, being at the forefront of the campaign to transform the women's and children's desk in the PNP into a national support unit similar to the Intelligence Group and the Civil Security Group.

At present, the PNP-Women and Children Concerns Desk is a division under the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management. Many of its officers, including Tanigue who is its chief, hold concurrent positions in other departments, hampering the unit's operations.

Teary-eyed but in a steady voice, Tanigue dedicated her promotion to women officers, saying it was "no ordinary achievement" in a male-dominated organization.

Lawyer Katrina Legarda, a friend, said she still could not believe Tanigue's promotion even as the ceremony was unfolding.

"Because it's very difficult, as all women know, to break through that glass ceiling," she said, referring to the police high command that had never had a woman general since the PNP's inception in 1991.

Legarda said Tanigue's ascent said a lot about the force.

She recalled how the PNP had allowed Tanigue a few years back to refuse a regional posting so she could continue developing the women's desk.

"They have finally decided that, yes, a woman and a child are very important in the country," Legarda said.

Director Jose Salvacion, head of the Directorate for Human Resources and Development, said Tanigue's promotion countered the impression the "PNP is biased toward males."

"This shows we are gender-sensitive, and this will inspire other women officers to work more so they too can be recognized and later attain star rank," Salvacion said.

Aside from Legarda, among the influential women present at the rites was National Police Commission (Napolcom) Vice Chair Imelda Roces.

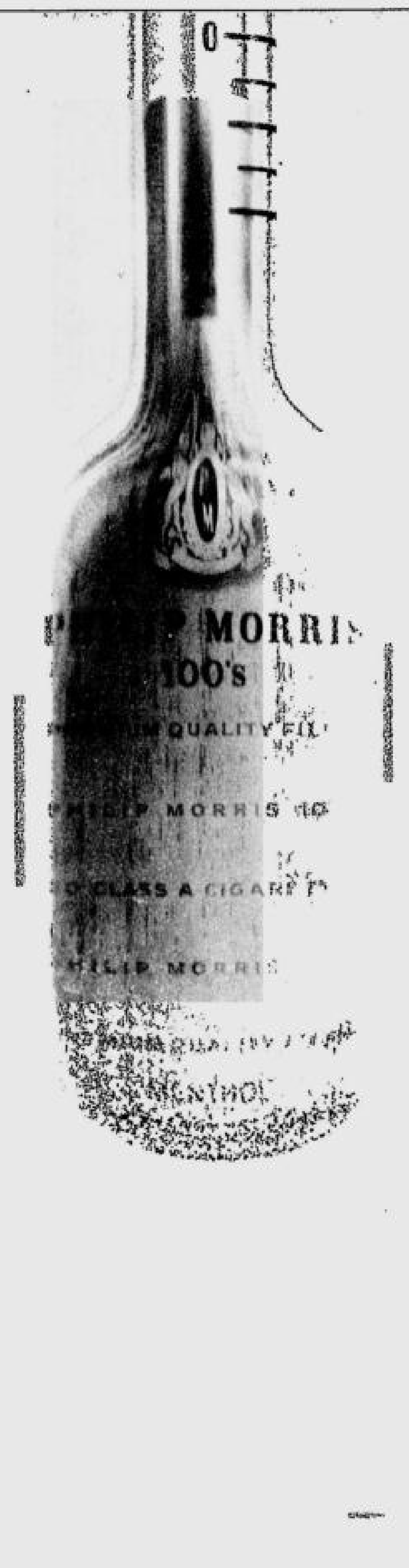
PNP Director General Oscar Calderon, who administered the oath to Tanigue, said yesterday was a "day for women."

"I have with me all my officers, to include my police women officers and civilian employees and even our (women) janitors, (and they) are here to witness your promotion. This is really a day for women," Calderon said.

Tanigue, a mother of three, began her police career as a finance officer in Camp Crame in the late '70s. A registered social worker, she joined the jail bureau as a rehabilitation officer and rose through the ranks to become police chief of San Pablo City. Later she was appointed to head the women's desk of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"What made her stand out is her expertise in special laws protecting women and children," Calderon said.

The office Tanigue spent most of her career in has provided the PNP with policy directions "necessary toward becoming a gender-friendly institution," Calderon added.



THERE'S A COOL CHANGE COMING.

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Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

WHAT WENT BEFORE?

JUNE 8, 2001—THE ELECTRIC Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 is passed. Also known as the Epira Law, it mandates National Power Corp. (Napocor) to sell at least 70 percent of its generation assets in Luzon and the Visayas. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) handles the privatization of these assets.

DEC. 3, 2004—With an offer of $561.74 million, YNN Pacific, a Filipino-Australian group, wins the bidding for Masinloc power plant, the first major power plant put up for sale by Psalm under the Epira. YNN Pacific is required to pay a 40-percent down payment of $227 million within nine months from the date of the deal's announcement. If it fails to do so, the bidder will lose the $9 million in performance bond. The firm must settle the remainder over the next seven years, through 14 equal semi-annual payments, at an interest rate of 12 percent.

DEC. 16, 2004—The Congressional Power Commission decides to temporarily block the sale of the Masinloc plant, questioning why a Filipino corporation (YNN Corp.) with a paid-up capital of P600,000 and its Australian partner (Great Pacific Ltd.) with a market capitalization of only $10 million were allowed to take part in the bidding.

DEC. 22, 2004—Despite an investigation by Congress, the government awards the Masinloc coal-fired power plant contract to YNN Pacific.

NOVEMBER 2005—The deadline for YNN Pacific to pay the down payment is moved to March 31, 2006.

APRIL 2006—The deadline is reset to June 30, 2006, after Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill Bhd joined YNN Pacific. Ranhill Bhd eventually buys out its partners in YNN Pacific for $8 million.

JUNE 21, 2006—Bayan Muna files a graft case against PSALM officials for alleged irregularities in the deal.

JUNE 30, 2006—YNN Pacific fails to pay up and loses the performance bond, which has risen to $14 million.

JULY 7, 2006—PSALM gives YNN Pacific a notice of termination of contract, which takes effect 30 days after or on Aug. 6. *Mel Lawrence de Guzman, PDI Research*

FVR, Miriam clash over Masinloc deal

From page A1

Ranhill Berhad, a publicly listed company, which is said to be partly owned by leaders of the United Malay Nationalist Organization, which in turn has ties to the ruling Lakas-NUCD, the political party founded by Ramos.

Ramos turned the tables on Santiago and asked her if she was accusing UMNO leaders, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi and former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of involvement in a graft-ridden contract in the Philippines.

Ramos, who said he readily agreed to appear at the hearing despite his status as a former President, said the charges linking him to the deal were unfounded.

He said he did not know any of the officials of Ranhill Bhd. or if they were also officials of UMNO, but he acknowledged that he had close ties to both Mahathir and his successor Badawi.

Guilt by association

"The charges upon me are without basis because it is ... guilt by association. I don't know if that is now an accepted principle in our jurisprudence," Ramos said.

Santiago cut him off. "The chair disagrees with you. Guilt by association is guilt when a person...," but Ramos this time cut her off: "May I continue Madam..."

"No," Santiago said firmly. "The chair is speaking. I have the floor whenever I decide to have it. You are using guilt by association very loosely."

Santiago, who cochairs the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) with Rep. Alipio Badelles, asked Ramos about a statement made by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that Ramos' hand in the fraudulent sale of the Masinloc plant by the government to YNN must be investigated.

"Are you calling Senator Pimentel a liar?" Santiago asked.

Slightly raising his voice, Ramos stared at Santiago with his trademark lens-free eye glasses and said: "My answer to that is: 'Are you [saying] the UMNO—the ruling party of Malaysia—is involved in corruption in the Philippines, specifically the Masinloc power plant?"

"Sir, it is not your function to raise questions with the chair," Santiago replied. "Your function is to answer. You are now discharged by this chair. Thank you."

But thanks to Sen. Serge Osmeña and other senators who wanted to ask Ramos questions, he was not banished from the hearing until it ended.

Osmeña said a letter sent by Badawi to Malacañang asking that the Masinloc plant be sold to YNN helped fuel speculations about Ramos' involvement.

Strings pulled?

Pimentel said strings were apparently pulled in Malacañang to make Ranhill Bhd. a player in the country's power sector in lieu of YNN, which had no financial capability to buy the power plant.

"Therefore, the implication is that some powerful figures in or out of government were pulling strings to bring in YNN (and Ranhill Bhd.) and media (reports) identified Mr. Ramos (as one of the figures)," Pimentel said.

Santiago later told reporters that Ramos was entitled to a presumption of innocence in the absence of hard evidence linking him to the deal.

"I am not saying that it was Fidel Ramos who pulled strings for YNN [but] YNN is getting very powerful political support here. We don't now who it is," she said.

Meralco supply deal

She also said YNN chief Sonny Sun, who did not attend the hearing, apparently had the capability to pressure Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to sign a supply agreement with YNN to buy its power.

But talks between YNN and Meralco on a power supply agreement were stopped after the consortium failed to meet the June 30 deadline to remit the down payment.

Ranhill Berhad made a power supply contract with Meralco a condition for its infusion of fresh equity into YNN.

Santiago noted that the Masinloc plant was sold as a merchant plant, without transitional supply contract ensuring that someone would buy the power it would generate.

"A businessman will not buy a power plant unless he is assured he has a market or buyer for his power," she said.

The senator said there was public suspicion that Ranhill, after its buyout of YNN, expected Meralco to sign the supply contract as a Philippine government concession to the Lopez-owned Meralco, which owes the government billions of pesos and has a pending application for a power rate hike.

Alarm bells

Santiago also said alarm bells should have rung during the bidding when YNN "overbid," with $561.7 million, compared to First Generation Holdings Corp.'s $275 million. YNN's bid was much higher than the $388-million tag price of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

She said the answer lay in how profitable the Masinloc plant would be.

Crown jewels

"In effect what we are seeing is the sale of one of the most lucrative power plants of our government—in fact it is often called one of the crown jewels of our power industry—for a bargain basement price because, if you look at the statement, every year they will have a profit of $75 million. They can recover the investment in seven years and all the rest will be gravy," Santiago said.

"And that is why today the JCPC explicitly directed the PSALM to allow the contract to terminate by Aug. 6. In other words we were able to nip in the bud what would have been a case of graft," she said.

Terminate sale

Sen. Joker Arroyo and Pimentel supported her recommendation to terminate the sale. Badelles said that was also the "unanimous position" of the House panel.

Ramos later told reporters Congress had no right to take an executive action and that it should leave the decision to PSALM and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

☑ Yes! to Charter Change

The tide has turned for Charter change!

Survey after survey have confirmed the call that is now sweeping the nation:

It is time to amend the 1987 Constitution.

It is time to dismantle the failed presidential system of destructive and poisonous politics that is keeping the Philippines backward, unstable, and desperate.

It is time to shift to a parliamentary system and a unicameral parliament to make government efficient, effective and transparent.

When the Senate and the House of Representatives under our presidential system cannot even agree to approve the national budget—the single most important measure for the nation—then the future of millions of Filipinos is really bleak and hopeless.

The Pulse Asia survey of June 24 - July 8, 2006 proves that Charter reform through People's Initiative—a campaign led by the *Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines* (ULAP) *and Sigaw ng Bayan*—is NOW THE OPTION MOST FAVORED by Filipinos to amend the 1987 Constitution!

48 percent of Filipinos favor People's Initiative.
23 percent favor Constitutional Convention—**down** from **30** percent in March.
40 percent of Filipinos are likely to vote in a national plebiscite on changing the Constitution.
Only **22** percent said they are not likely to vote.

We congratulate our more than nine million signatories and ask them and millions more of our ardent supporters nationwide: ***Let us restore the nation's hope. Let us amend the Constitution. Now!***

Likehood of voting if the plebiscite on changing the Constitution were held today
June 24 - July 8, 2006

If the plebiscite on changing the Constitution were held today, are you. . . ?

	RP	NCR	LUZ	VIS	MIN
LIKELY TO VOTE	**40**	38	41	39	40
UNDECIDED	38	37	41	33	39
LIKELY NOT TO VOTE	22	25	18	28	22

Preferred method of changing the constitution
March 2006 and July 2006

In your opinion, which of the following is the BEST in proposing changes or amendments to the Constitution?

	RP	NCR	LUZ	VIS	MIN
Intitiative or People's Initiative					
July 2006	**48**	41	48	57	44
March 2006	40	42	40	36	45
Congressional Action or Constituent Assembly					
July 2006	28	31	31	21	28
March 2006	28	27	27	31	30
Constitutional Convention					
July 2006	23	27	20	21	28
March 2006	30	31	33	33	23

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No, GMA does not have a 'fatty liver'

JUST SAILING ALONG: Residents of Barangay Pasig in Candaba, Pampanga, have to paddle their way through floodwaters, which have yet to recede since storm Henry left three days ago.

JOAN BONDOC

From page A1

fatty liver was probably caused by depression, which might have induced her to drink alcohol at night to bring on sleep.

Cognac

The President drank a lot of alcohol, especially in her younger days, with cognac as her preferred drink, according to persons close to her.

The Malacañang source, however, maintained that the President had cut down on her alcohol intake and had limited her drinking to "a healthy glass of wine" every night.

Since her first hospitalization due to severe diarrhea, the President's bodyguards have been strict in limiting the food served to their boss. They routinely ask the chef to give the President only "lean viands."

Yap reiterated Ms Arroyo was rushed to St. Luke's in Quezon City last week because she had the flu.

A medical bulletin issued by Ms Arroyo's attending physicians said she was brought to the hospital due to "fever, running nose, sore throat, dry cough and body aches."

It was the second time in 35 days that the President was brought to the hospital. On June 22, she was rushed to the hospital after complaining of stomach pains. She was treated by her doctors for acute infectious diarrhea.

Her confinement in the hospital twice in little more than a month sparked rumors that she was suffering from a serious ailment.

Specialist on liver cancer

The rumors were partly fanned by the fact that her attending physician, Juliet Gopez-Cervantes, heads St. Luke's liver center and is said to be a specialist in liver cancer.

Opposition leaders had questioned Ms Arroyo's silence on her latest ailment, saying that if it was just a case of the flu there would have been no need for her to stay in the hospital because the Palace was equipped to meet her medical needs.

They asked Ms Arroyo to be more forthcoming on the true state of her health, saying that under the Constitution she was duty-bound to disclose it.

Even her close ally, former President Fidel Ramos, made the same call, suggesting that the Palace give regular updates on Ms Arroyo's health.

GMA: Thank you for prayers

Ms Arroyo yesterday said she was doing fine. "I got well immediately," she said at the start of a televised roundtable discussion with government officials.

"Thank you for your prayers but now we need more prayers and help for our brother overseas Filipino workers in Lebanon," the President said, in reference to the ongoing evacuation she had ordered for all Filipinos in strife-torn Lebanon.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Ms Arroyo was in perfect health. Ermita said he was with the President at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday that started at 10 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m.

"That means the President is healthy," Ermita said over dzRH radio.

Gossip running wild

But in the Senate, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. issued fresh calls on Malacañang to come clean on the real reason for Ms Arroyo's hospitalization.

Pimentel pointed out that Ms Arroyo held the highest political position in the country, and the lack of information on her health had led to "political gossip running wild."

Disclosing the reason behind Ms Arroyo's hospitalization would stop the speculation that she could be suffering from a more serious ailment, the senator said.

He said he had heard rumors Ms Arroyo had a liver ailment.

"They're under obligation to inform the people just exactly what's ailing her. It's part of transparency in governance. In the absence of that, there's a lot of speculation," Pimentel said in a Manila forum.

The Senate minority leader also said he did not want the President to suffer from any serious ailment, although he still wanted her to step down.

"I hope her illness is not that serious because we do not want to see her die. As far as I'm concerned, I only want her to resign," he said.

Secret

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago defended Ms Arroyo from speculations she had a serious illness, saying the President's state of health must sometimes be kept secret to prevent enemies of the state from exploiting it.

"That is a very complex matter. It could be in the national interest not to reveal the state of the President's health until the situation has stabilized because the enemies of the state might seize that opportunity," Santiago told reporters.

She said the President must be presumed to be in good health and that it was up to the opposition to prove the contrary.

"That she goes to the hospital is just a practice; an implementation of the legal presumption 'out of an abundance of caution' we take the President to the hospital," Santiago said.

"Ordinary people like you and me can be sick at home but this is the President, the head of state. She has so many commitments. Why not take her to the hospital so that she'll get relief sooner," she added.

Superwoman

Santiago attested to the President's "superwoman" qualities, saying she did not believe Ms Arroyo was ailing.

"No, I have been with her on two state visits—one to Saudi Arabia and and another to Spain and Italy—and the level of her energy is extraordinary for a human being. I imagine that she is unmatched in terms of kinetic energy in this country so I cannot believe that she is sick of something that is being hidden from public view," Santiago said.

FVR's assertion

But Ramos asserted that "the state of the health of the President is part of the state of the nation."

He said her spokespersons and doctors must regularly inform the public about the President's health.

"It is something that must not be hidden from the public," Ramos said.

His advice to Ms Arroyo: "Stay healthy, stay energetic, stay focused and stay."

Ramos had a carotid operation during his own term.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace was standing by the medical bulletins issued by the President's doctors at St. Luke's that she only had the flu and nothing else. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria*

Diamonds are not . . .

From page A1

sioned by US cable television's Oxygen Network that is owned and operated by women, found that the technology gender gap has virtually closed with the majority of women snapping up new technology and using it easily.

Women were found on average to own 6.6 technology devices while men own 6.9. The same study said that four out of every five women felt comfortable using technology, with 46 percent doing their own computer trouble-shooting.

"People make the assumption that women are not as advanced as men when it comes to technology, and I was surprised at the parity men and women now have in terms of technology," Geraldine Laybourne, chair and chief executive officer of Oxygen Network, told Reuters.

The Girls Gone Wired survey of 1,400 women and 700 men aged 15 to 49, which was conducted by market researcher TRU, found that given the choice, women would opt for tech items rather than luxury items like jewelry or vacations.

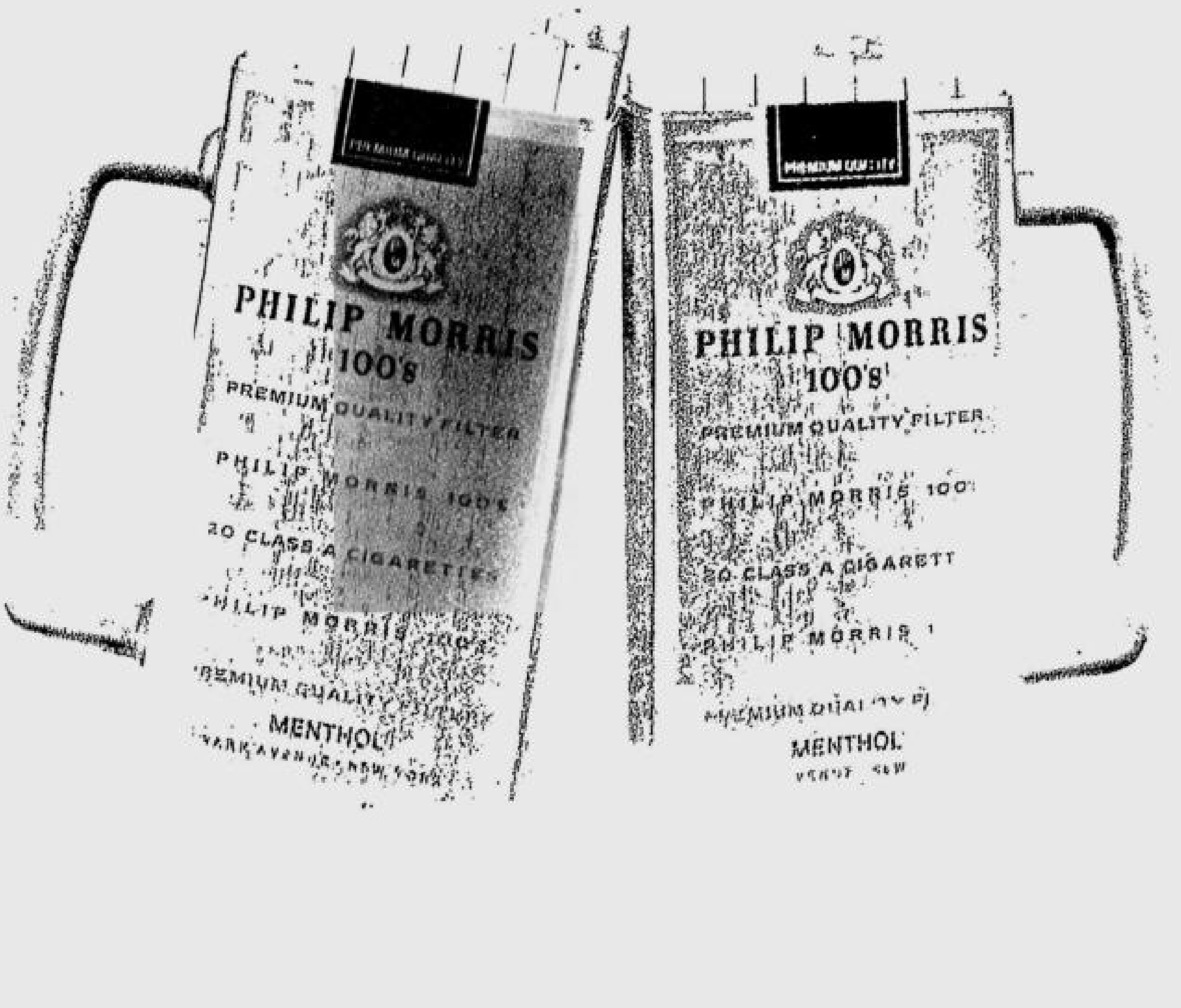
The study found that 77 percent of women surveyed would prefer a new plasma television to a diamond solitaire necklace, and 56 percent would opt for a new plasma TV over a weekend vacation in Florida.

Even shoes lost out. The study found 86 percent would prefer a new digital video camera to a pair of designer shoes.

Over the next five years, women see themselves increasing their activities in six tech areas—digital cameras, cell phones, e-mail, camera phones, text messaging and instant messaging, the study said.

Laybourne said this increasing use of technology among women was expected to continue—with advertisers needing to ensure they addressed women's increased usage and knowledge.

"Women don't feel like they have been given credit for what they know and they are condescended to," Laybourne said. *Reuters*



READY FOR A COLD ONE?

Philip Morris 100's. Premium Taste in Menthol.

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

HS students invent 'disaster' board game

From page A1

When one lands on these special places, little things like a flashlight, rope, a first-aid kit, bottled water and a radio could save a person's life—or in the case of the game called "Oplan Sagip Pilipinas," could entitle a player to throw the dice again.

A group of high school students from Miriam College in Quezon City created Oplan Sagip Pilipinas, the first Filipino board game on disaster preparedness.

And the Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), a nongovernment organization engaged in providing communities life-saving training, adopted the game and presented it to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) on July 20.

The game is planned for use in educating children on what to do during disasters.

"The OCD is interested in using it as educational material, but the government does not have the funds to reproduce it," CDP president Fe Andaya told the INQUIRER.

She said the CDP was in talks with Oxfam International for the mass production of the board game, but funding had yet to be committed.

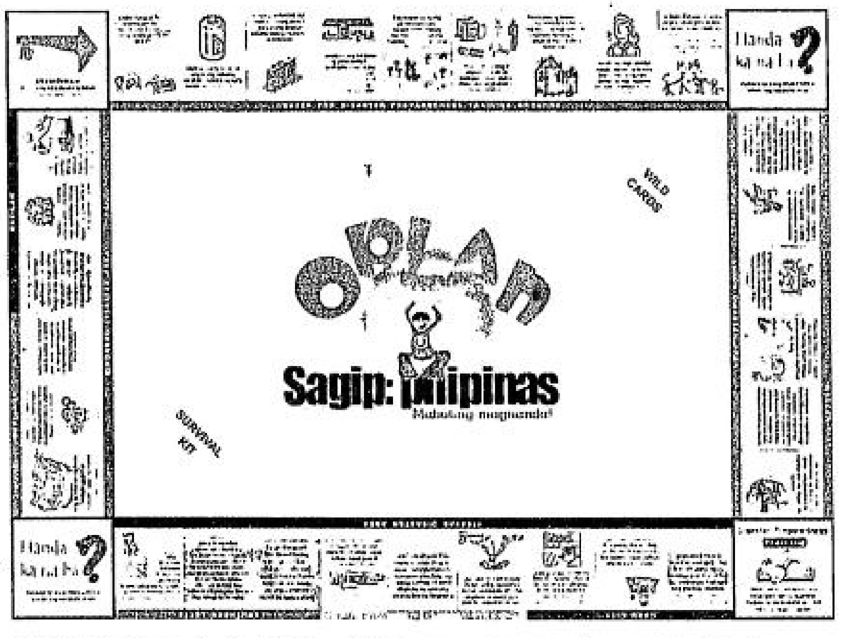
Born from boredom

"It's a fun way of learning how to prepare for disasters, of teaching children what to do, what they need, etc… It's a pioneering work [to recognize] children's roles in disaster preparedness," Andaya said in an interview at the CDP office on the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City.

The educational game was actually born from a little boredom last summer.

High school seniors Ara Marie Leal Rodrigues, 16; Pia Angela Maske, 17; Crystal Astrid Whang, 15, and Anna Margarita Tecson, 16, decided to volunteer at the CDP in May "just to do something worthwhile" and "earn some credits for college."

One lazy morning at the CDP office, the students were asked to play "Riskland," a board game developed by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) as an educational material for children in South America.



INSPIRED by Unicef's "Riskland," the game teaches players what to do during floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc. It can double as an educational material for kids. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CDP officers wanted to see if the game could be used in the Philippines.

"It was fun, but we found it difficult," Maske said.

"We thought, 'If we were kids in, say, Zamboanga, would we be able to answer the questions?' So we volunteered to do a Filipino version of the game, something that hit closer to home," she said.

2 weeks

The four volunteers brainstormed for two weeks and came up with Oplan Sagip Pilipinas, which is similar to Monopoly, Chips and Riskland.

Maske took another week to create the board prototype of the game in MS Publisher.

The game can have three to six players. Each player is given two cards from the "Items Chest," a deck of cards containing things that may prove useful during emergencies, like a flashlight, bottled water, rope, plywood, batteries, soap, a can opener, a radio, a first-aid kit and canned goods.

The players throw the dice and go around the board, which is divided into the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao disaster areas, and the CDP training grounds. Each of the 34 squares on the board has instructions, reminders or requirements (written in Filipino) for players during a disaster.

Some of the squares carry tips like *"Pag-usapan ng inyong pamilya kung saan magkikita-kita kung sakaling may mangyaring sakuna,"* (Discuss with your family where you will all meet in case of disaster)" and *"Sundin ang mga awtoridad kapag inatasan na kayong lisanin ang inyong baryo dahil sa mga maaaring mangyari* (Comply with authorities' orders to evacuate your barrio)."

Wild cards

Other squares present situations where the emergency items may be used. If the player that lands there does not have the required item, he or she loses a turn.

Players may also be told to pick a card from the Wild Cards deck, which would either penalize them for failing to help clean up clogged canals or make risk maps for the barangay, or simply give instructions on how to prevent disasters.

Players who fail to respond to an emergency situation three times are eliminated from the game, and the remaining player wins.

If the game is being played within a limited period, the one who has the most number of cards from the Items Chest wins.

Kids' roles

Children's roles before, during and after a disaster have recently been recognized and are now being integrated into local and national disaster preparedness programs.

A report by the Citizens' Disaster Response Center listed the top five disasters in the Philippines last year in terms of affected population as: Tropical cyclones, which affected 1.01 million persons; floods, 964,927 persons; armed conflict, 180,503; development aggression 131,313, and landslides 116,747.

Women and children comprise about half of the affected population during disasters, but children's needs are usually not considered in the relief package, the CDP said.

"There is no sensitivity to needs like play in evacuation centers," Andaya said. "Children must have their roles. You also have to recognize their capabilities according to their age levels."

During a disaster, kids usually go for their notebooks and other school things. When stuck in evacuation centers, they easily miss their friends and long to return to school, play and look for familiar things—needs which are often overlooked in the recovery period.

Rodriguez, who hopes to put up her own NGO someday, said Oplan Sagip Pilipinas would allow Filipino children to learn about disaster preparedness without getting bored.

"It's easier to remember when applied in a smaller way. Usually it's such a tedious task to learn these things," she said.

Pacman plans …

From page A1

the former bakery hand from General Santos City who rose to the pinnacle of the World Boxing Council's super featherweight division.

The 27-year-old boxing sensation said he did not wish to retire from the ring with physical or mental disabilities. He said he wanted to enjoy life after boxing.

Manila vice mayor?

But if politics was on his mind, the No. 1 endorser of San Miguel products wasn't talking about it.

He declined to comment on speculations he would run for vice mayor of Manila.

Pacquiao said he had no plans of relocating from General Santos to Manila. He said his registering to vote in Manila's sixth district did not necessarily mean he was leaving his birthplace.

"I will remain a resident of this city. I was born here and my family lives here," he said.

In fact, he said, he bought two more houses at City Heights Village for his two sons.

"When my children grow up, they need not build their houses because they already have their own, each one of them," he said in Filipino.

Pacquiao has a house at Labangal village, where he and his family stay. A multimillion-peso mansion is being constructed in nearby Lagao village. He said he still needed about P30 million to complete the house.

Businesses include a cock farm

His businesses include a pharmacy, a convenience store, a seven-hectare cock farm and a lotto outlet, among others.

Pacquiao said he wanted to buy more property in General Santos but what raised eyebrows was his trip to the Commission on Election headquarters on July 5 to file an application for transfer of registration records to Manila's sixth district.

"He said he wanted to register so he could vote in Manila," said election officer Villamor Igne. "I asked him in jest if he was eyeing a post but he merely said 'no comment'."

Igne said Pacquiao was accompanied by Arnold "Ali" Atienza, presidential adviser for youth and sports and chair of the Manila Sports Council, and son of Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza.

The ring idol, whose real name is Emmanuel Pacquiao, gave Block 2, Unit III, Residencia de Manila, Paco, as his address in the city.

A gift from Manila

In an interview over ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol World" on Wednesday, Pacquiao, an adopted son of Manila, said that the property was given to him by the city government.

Igne added that Pacquiao's application for transfer of registration records from his birth place would still have to go through a process, including approval by the election registration board, which will conduct a hearing on the case on Oct. 16.

"We first have to scrutinize his records to see if he is qualified, or if there are parties who would object to his application for transfer, things like that," Igne said.

Political observers in Manila said Pacquiao could prove to be a strong political contender with his money, popularity and charisma.

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2nd Prize Winners (24 Jars Activo each, AveScience T'Shirts)	**Zeneida S. Milan** 068 Regoso St., Saluysoy, Mecauayan, Bulacan **Ildefonso B. Franco** 90 Banga, Wea, Lanao Del Sur **Albert Cu** Door 2, Aquino Blds., 12th St., Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro **Leo A. Andal** B10826 Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Dasmariñas, Cavite	**Ricardo C. Tablar** 215 Filames Street, Punta Princesa, Cebu City **Benedicto Castillo Jr.** Poblacion, San Antonio, Quezon **Wilfredo Himpisao** 103 Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna **Fortunato Quita** C/o Tato P/S Poblacion, San Antonio, Quezon
3rd Prize Winners (24 Jars FeatherAid eeach, AveScience T'Shirts)	**Primo E. Pardo** Extension I, Waa, Lanao del Sur **Jolysses P. Blaza** Blaza Optical Clinic **Menelio Macapagal** 99 Homestead II, Talavera, Nueva Ecija **Shirly G. Ilagan** 8623 Batong Malake, Los Baños, Laguna	**Primo Sagun** San Nicolas, Oton, Iloilo **Rodolfo Veloso** Mamala I, Sariaya, Quezon **Reyne S. Langcao** 169 Blk. 6, Ramonal Vill., Camaman-an **Reperto V. Espinosa, Jr.** Malandog, Hamtic, Antique

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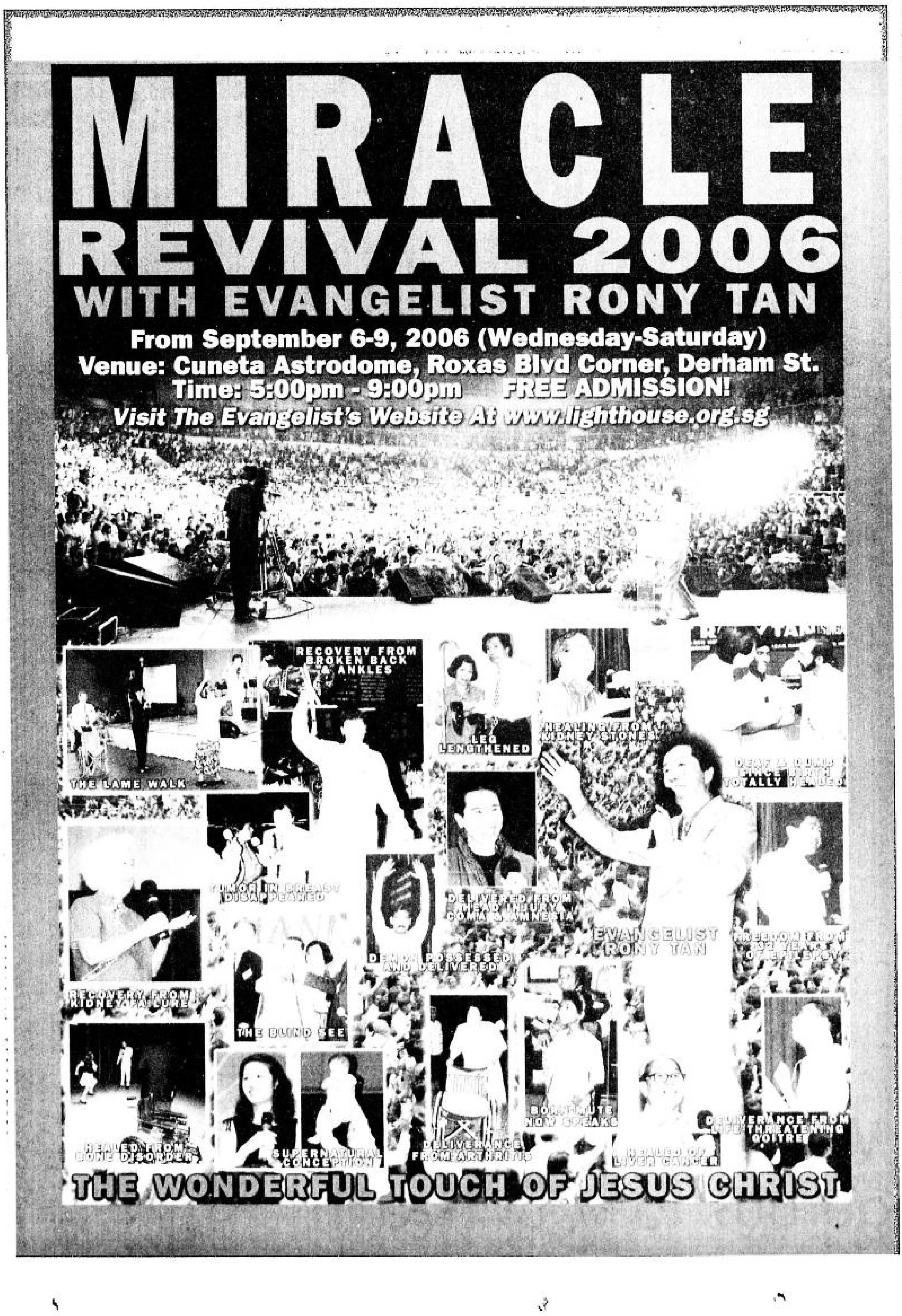
RECOVERY FROM BROKEN BACK & ANKLES
LEG LENGTHENED
HEALING FROM KIDNEY STONES
THE LAME WALK
DEAF & DUMB SINCE BIRTH TOTALLY HEALED
TUMOR IN BREAST DISAPPEARED
DELIVERED FROM HEAD INJURY, COMA & AMNESIA
EVANGELIST RONY TAN
DEMON POSSESSED AND DELIVERED
RECOVERY FROM KIDNEY FAILURE
THE BLIND SEE
BORN MUTE NOW SPEAKS
DELIVERANCE FROM LIFE THREATENING GOITRE
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SUPERNATURAL CONCEPTION
DELIVERANCE FROM ARTHRITIS
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RM awardee says honor goes to all who still hope

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—ANTONIO MELOTO, THE Bacolod City native who is among the seven recipients of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Awards for 2006, said the recognition he got was for all those "who have not stopped hoping for our country."

Meloto relayed this text message to the INQUIRER on Tuesday from Las Vegas where he was attending a congress of the US unit of the Gawad Kalinga, the foundation he leads, to raise more funds to build homes for the poor.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, considered as Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, honored businessman Meloto, 56, and the charity he leads, the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation, for community leadership.

Meloto, who is executive director of Gawad Kalinga, is the eighth Western Visayas native to receive the prestigious award.

The others are: Gilopez Kabayao, 1972; Bishop Antonio Fortich and Benjamin Gaston, 1973; Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 1988; Angel Alcala, 1992; Raul Locsin, 1999; and Haydee Yorac, 2004.

Exposed to poverty

Meloto was born on Jan. 17, 1950 in Bacolod City. At a very young age, he was exposed to the squalid conditions of the poor, his home being located very near a shoreline squatter community where poverty was already quite pronounced, even in the 1950s.

He used to walk to the Rizal Elementary School, where he graduated the class valedictorian in 1962.

He continued his education at the Negros Occidental High School, where he graduated class salutatorian in 1966. He was also president of the student council.

Meloto became an American Field Service scholar, repeating his senior high school year at the De Anza High School in Richmond, California. On his return he qualified for a full academic scholarship to the Ateneo de Manila University.

The turning point in Meloto's life came in 1985 at 35, when he was renewed in his faith through the Couples for Christ.

He began as an active CFC member in the Amparo Subdivision in Novaliches and quickly rose in the organization's leadership because of his commitment to its mission to have "families in the Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth."

He was able to bring CFC to his home province of Negros Occidental, where the membership has now grown to 40,000 individuals. He was also instrumental in the setting up of the CFC Family Ministries in 1993, expanding its reach to include not just couples but the youth and singles as well.

It was during his assignment as country coordinator for Australia that he heard the Lord's call to start the work with the poor through a youth program in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City spearheaded by ANCOP Foundation International.

From its beginnings in 1995, the program has evolved to become Gawad Kalinga, a movement that builds integrated, holistic and sustainable communities in depressed areas.

Touching lives

Meloto is married to Lyn Dizon, and the couple have five children—Anna, Amalia, Jay, Camille and Celine. All five children, except for Camille who has just turned two, are involved in volunteer work for Gawad Kalinga.

Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia said Bacoleños should celebrate the RM Awards' recognition of Meloto as he has touched so many lives.

"We in Bacolod are privileged to have worked with him and are doing our share of building homes in coordination with Gawad Kalinga," Leonardia said.

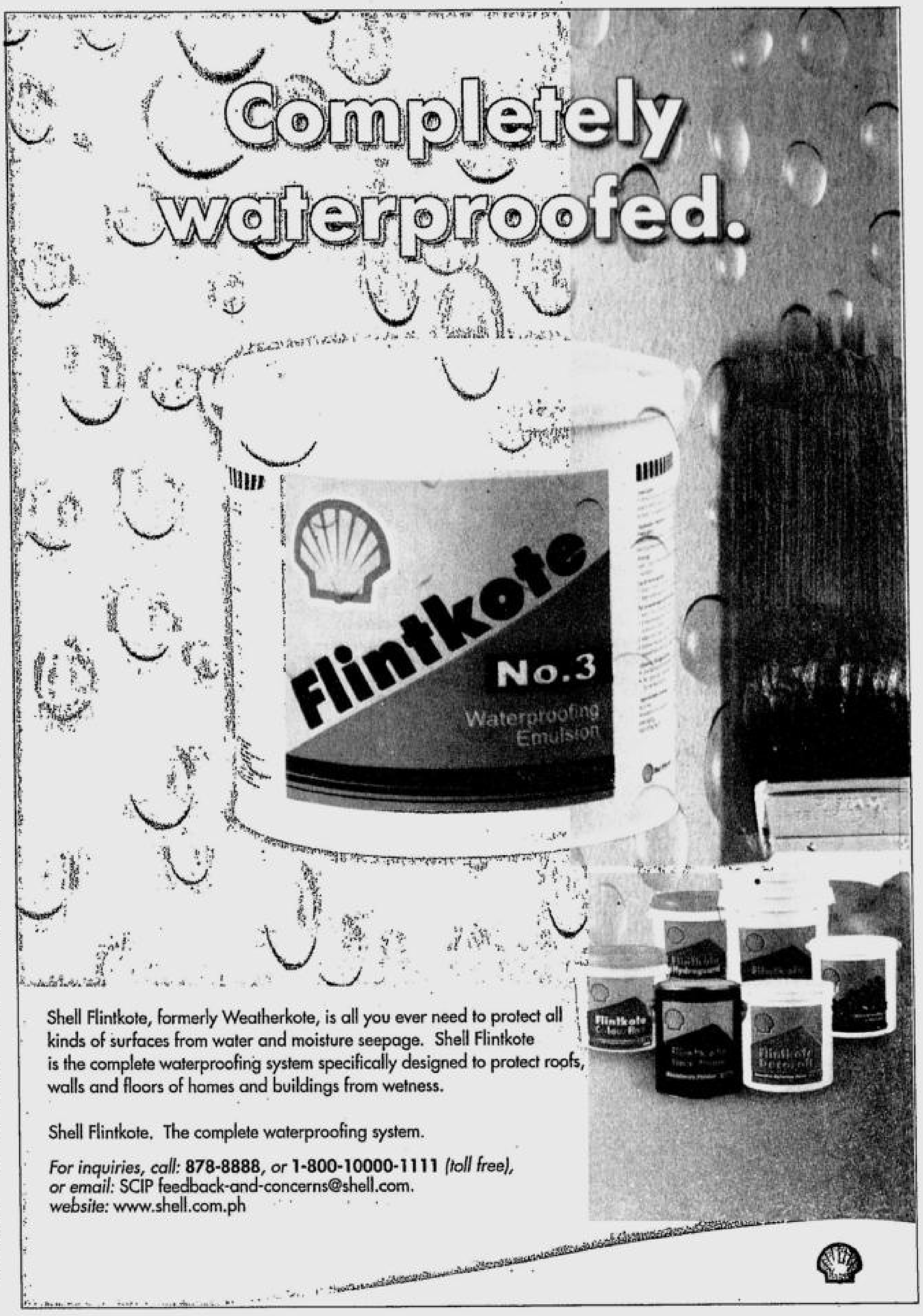
He said the city government would launch a massive fund-raising campaign during the MassKara Festival in October to build more GK homes in the city.

"We hope that this award will be an impetus in the campaign to raise more funds for houses for the poor in Bacolod City," the mayor said.

Gov. Joseph Marañon said he was glad that Meloto's efforts to build homes for the poor has been recognized by a prestigious organization, and hopes he will redouble his efforts because there is still a lot to be done.

"I congratulate him, we are proud of him and wish him all the best," Marañon said.

Gawad Kalinga, begun 11 years ago, has built more than 850 housing developments for free for more than 100,000 families in various regions. It is committed to building 7,000 new communities by 2010.



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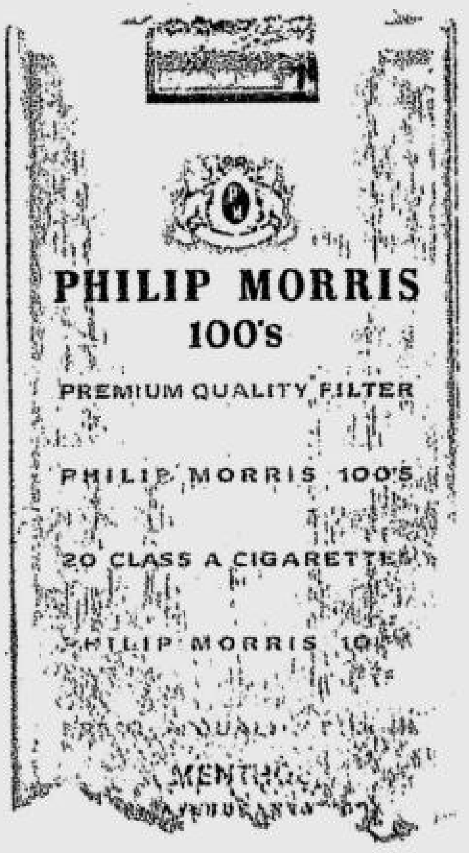

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JUSMAG HOUSING

Army retirees evicted

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE ARMY YESTERDAY QUIETLY began evicting dozens of retired military and police officers from the disputed Joint United States Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) housing compound in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

A 1,000-strong eviction team moved into the 40-hectare compound at 2:30 p.m., half an hour after a 20-day temporary restraining order issued by a Pasig City court expired.

The residents generally did not resist as the soldiers loaded their belongings onto military trucks.

Some members of the retired officers' families cried openly and pleaded not to be evicted. Most, however, just documented the eviction.

There was none of the taunting, jeering and violent confrontation that marked the Navy's eviction of its retired officers from the Bonifacio Naval Station in May.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said the Army was determined to regain control of the 40-ha property.

"We will implement (the eviction) in the spirit of fairness. Our junior officers are always saying there is corruption in the higher ranks. (It's) because these retired officers who were our senior officers display a bad example themselves," he said.

"So we should get our property back, right? We should stop this craziness," he said.

Lack of housing is one of the big gripes in the military.

Unlike the Navy, the Army tried to keep details of yesterday's eviction hush-hush.

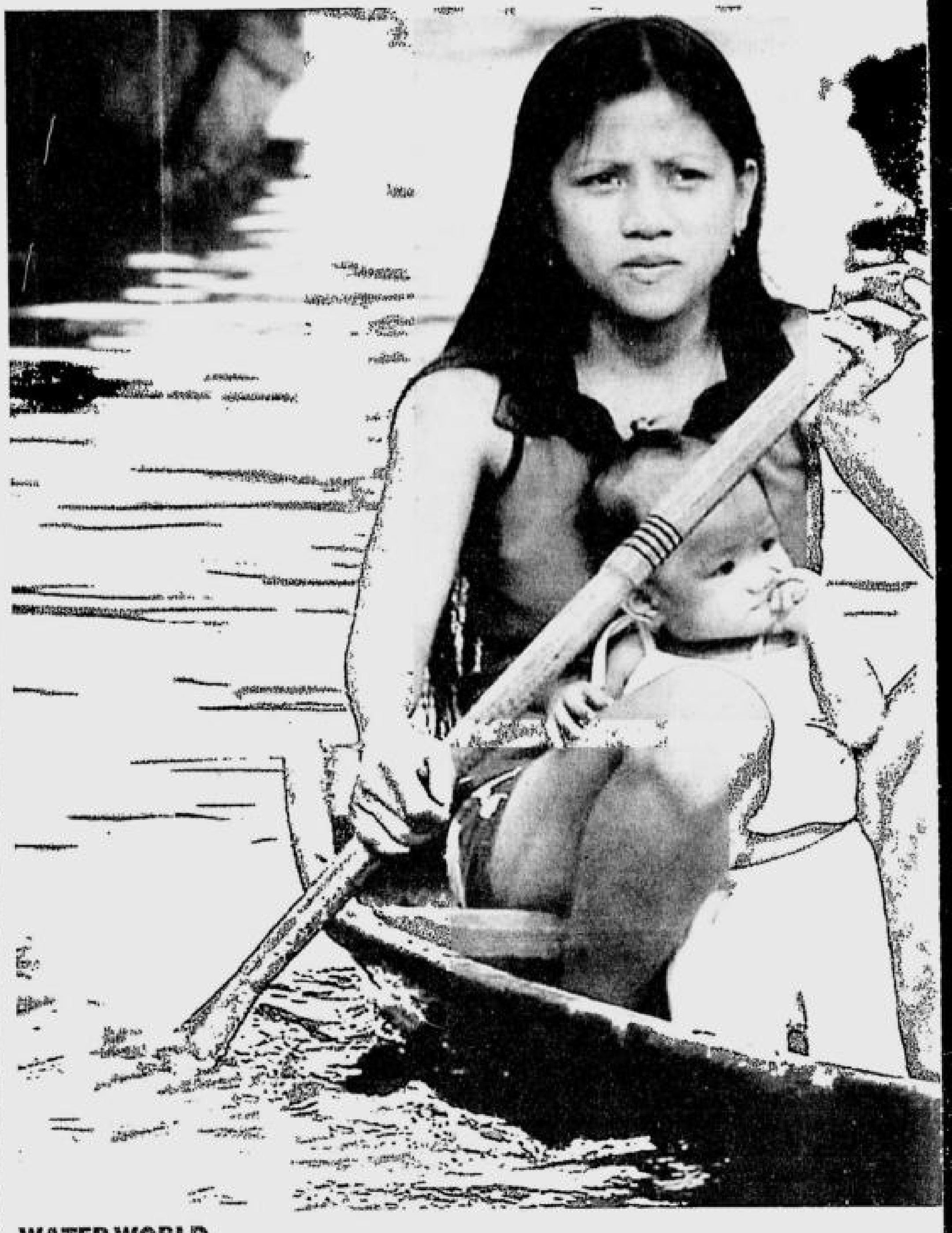
Army spokesperson Maj. Ernesto Torres Jr. refused to identify the retired officers who were evicted. He would say only that 15 of the "more or less 50 overstaying" officers continued to resist their ejection.

There are 106 housing units in the Jusmag compound, 58 of which were occupied by the retired officers and their families.

Most of them left earlier to avoid being forcibly evicted.

Some residents claimed their Southside Homeowners Association Inc. (SHAI) had secured an injunction. But as of late yesterday afternoon, the residents could not produce the injunction.

The SHAI, composed of the retirees' wives, claimed it had bought the Jusmag property in 1991 for P11.9 million.



WATER WORLD
A woman, her child and their neighbors paddle through the flooded streets of Candaba, Pampanga
under water in the wake of storm "Henry." Seventeen villages in the town alone are still flooded.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 4, 2005
17th Week in Ordinary Time
John Vianney

1st Reading: Jer 26:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?" And so they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Commentary

Jeremiah preaches the harsh word of judgment and the coming destruction if the people do not change. And the priests, prophets and people resist, grab hold of him and are intent on killing him. The Word is spoken and it provokes a response: for life or for death. It's our choice too.

Jesus preaches in his hometown and most reject him out of hand—they know him, who does he think he is? And Jesus responds saying that he is a prophet and will know no honor in his own place. Do we listen to Jesus as a prophet, like Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, seeking to turn us back to the intensity of belief and practice, to convert us, or do we think we know him and do nothing?

House OKs ₱47-B budget supplement

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE P46.9-BILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET sought by President Macapagal-Arroyo was swiftly approved by the House appropriations committee yesterday and is well on the way to approval by the House plenary next week.

"It was faster than ordering a pizza," said a visibly pleased Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, the appropriations committee chair, described the supplemental budget as a "vitamin supplement for the economy operating on a reenacted diet."

Salceda said that as a matter of policy he would have preferred the "main course" of the failed 2006 national budget which provided for P135 billion in new spending authorization.

The P46.9-billion supplemental budget is only a third of the P135 billion "spending authorization lost due to reenactment" of the 2005 budget, he said.

Salceda filed the bill seeking a P46.4-billion budget to cover the funding gaps between the reenacted 2005 budget, under which the government is now operating, and the 2006 General Appropriations Act which Congress failed to pass.

The President also asked for an additional P500 million for the repatriation of Filipinos trapped in war-torn Lebanon.

With the approval of the measure, Andaya said "more help is on the way to Filipinos in Lebanon."

Salceda attributed the swift approval of the supplemental budget, which took only three days after it was referred to the committee by Speaker Jose de Venecia, to a "display of bipartisanship."

The committee had to slightly amend the Malacañang proposal by realigning P1 billion from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education for the repair of school buildings.

But Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano complained that the additional budget for the DepEd could be a form of pork barrel if the disbursement would be equally shared among congressional districts of the President's allies.

Andaya, who defended the budget before the committee, said the realignment of the P1 billion to the DepEd was "something we can live with."

"We have to respect and understand the dynamics of lawmaking," Andaya said.

"Besides, it's being transferred from one good cause to another. It will have the same beneficiaries, our people," he said.

If ratified by the plenary, the amendment will reduce the DAR's share in the supplemental budget to P3.593 billion and increase the DepEd's share to P9.582 billion.

Salceda filed the bill for a supplemental budget after the majority "abandoned the 2006 GAA" in favor of a supplemental budget which "offers a more workable template."

Congress failed to pass the P1.053-trillion 2006 budget after the House and the Senate could not agree on a compromise version following the Senate move to slash P64 billion from it.

Salceda said he had a breakfast meeting yesterday with his Sen. Franklin Drilon, the chair of the Senate finance committee. He said Drilon has said he was "open to the measure."

Salceda said the passage of the supplemental budget was imperative to "provide authority for expenditures that are not in the reenacted budget but are mandatory by virtue of a law or necessary for the welfare of our public servants, and for the improvement of public service."

The supplemental budget will augment priority expenditures of the following departments: agriculture, P3.59 billion; education, P9.58 billion; interior and local governments, P1.42 billion; social welfare and development, P539 million; and transportation and communications, P3.24 billion.

Drilon bats for automatic LGU allocation in budget

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. FRANKLIN DRILON IS PUSHING FOR the automatic appropriation of the local governments' share in the national tax collection to spare local officials from having to lobby for the release of these funds in Malacañang and Congress.

Drilon, who chairs the Senate finance committee, said he would endorse the approval of a provision in the proposed 2006 supplemental budget mandating the automatic appropriation of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of local government units.

The IRA is the local government units' share in the tax revenues collected by the government.

Drilon said this would "spare local officials from the ugly choice of having to play politics with Malacañang and Congress to get what is rightfully theirs."

The P46.4 billion supplemental budget proposal provides for a P14.8 million allocation for the IRA and contains a recommendation that all future local government shares "shall henceforth by automatically appropriated."

Drilon said he would support the proposed supplemental budget which is intended to cover the funding deficiencies arising from the non-enactment of the P1.053-trillion 2006 national budget.

The Estrada administration started withholding P5 billion each year from the IRA from 1999 to 2001, setting aside the amount for a so-called Local Government Service Equalization Fund (LGSEF).

President Macapagal-Arroyo continued the practice in the 2002 reenacted budget. Of the accumulated P20 billion withheld from the IRA since 1999, the national government released only P2.5 billion to the LGUs, leaving a balance of P17.5 billion.

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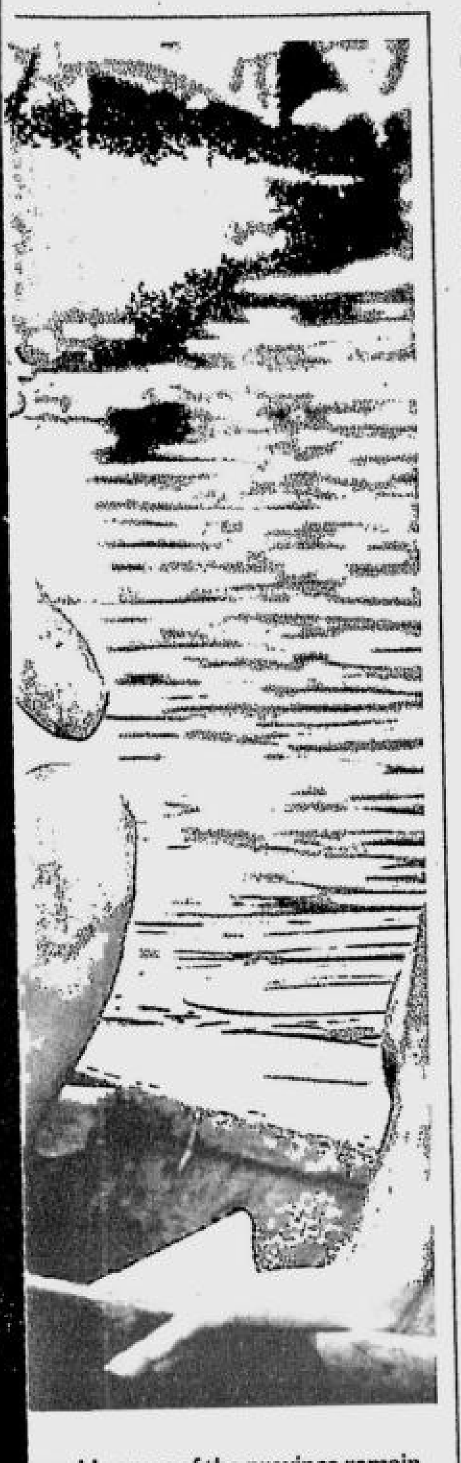

as wide areas of the province remain
JOAN BONDOC

Super regions a mistake–Pimentel

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPER REGIONS CREATED by President Macapagal-Arroyo are "a mistake, if not a crime," a senator critical of her administration said yesterday.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the super regions would only create another layer of bureaucracy on top of the 16 existing smaller regions.

He said this would lead to delays in development, the selective implementation of projects and more corruption in government.

"Instead of the money and the projects intended for the regional and local government units going straight-to them, it will be sieved by this new bureaucratic layer," Pimentel said at a news forum at the Manila Pavilion.

He said there should only be one super region and this was the entire country.

The super regions designated by Ms Arroyo in her recent State of the Nation Address are north Luzon and Mindanao, to be developed into agribusiness centers; Metro Luzon, which will become an urban beltway; Central Philippines, the tourism hub, and the cyber corridor, which would run the length of the four other regions.

Pimentel said the creation of the five super regions was one of the President's misdeeds.

He said the others were cheating in the 2004 election, corruption, the unabated extrajudicial killings, her hypocritical stand on reforms in government, and her lack of concern for the needs of Mindanao.

Kin of missing hale gov't to SC

THE FAMILIES OF NINE MISSING LEFT-WING ACTIVISTS petitioned the Supreme Court yesterday to order security officials to free them.

The petitioners and human rights groups have accused police and military officials of abducting and detaining the activists, including two consultants for the communist rebels negotiating with the government before the insurgents suspended peace talks two years ago.

The abductions were part of a government plan to stifle dissent and strengthen President Macapagal-Arroyo's hold on power, the petition said.

"Only this most honorable court can stop this illegal practice which has never been heard and experienced since martial law during the dictatorship of [Ferdinand] Marcos," it said.

According to their families, Leopoldo Ancheta, Rogelio Calubad and son Gabriel, Roland Porter, Prudencio Calubid and wife Celina Palma, Ariel Beloy, Gloria Soco and Philip Limjoco disappeared between May and June.

The elder Calubad and Calubid were consultants for the communist-led National Democratic Front peace panel while Ancheta is a staff member of the NDF peace committee.

The government did not comment immediately but earlier this week the military denied it was holding two student activists from the University of the Philippines.

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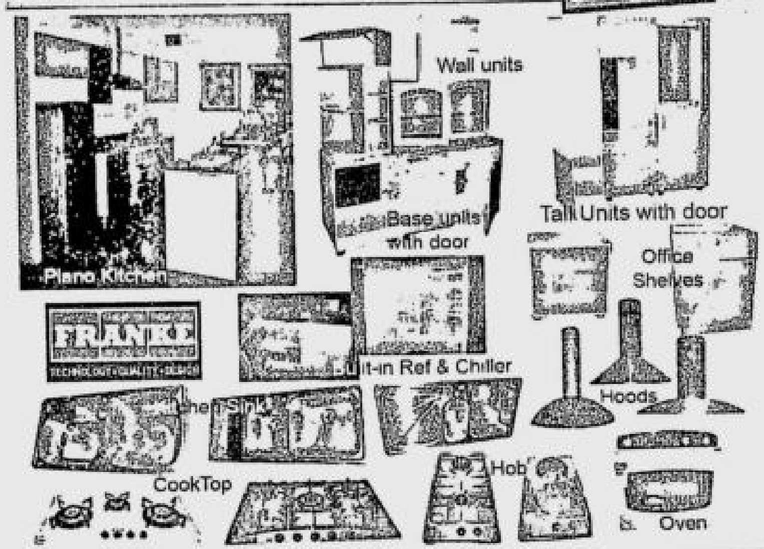

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ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. Bid Security in the form of Cash or Manager's Check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total Bid Price;
2. Latest Income Tax Return of the Bidder or Financial Statement of the company (original or BIR stamped-receipt copy) and;
3. Bidder's Inspection Certificate.

Additional information and/or request for inspection may be secured from Mr. Jovenal Z. Darilay, Chief, TWS, at the above address or call telephone no. 981-2100 local 2205.

Issuance of Bid Documents will start on August 4, 2006 until 4:30 p.m. on August 17, 2006.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

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(PDI - Aug 4 & 5, 2006)

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OPINION

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Nonsense

EDITORIAL

PERFUME POWER MADE ITSELF KNOWN IN THE House of Representatives the other day. The 17 ladies that filed a petition for this year's impeachment complaints to be thrown out by the House, argued: "Impeachment is not the appropriate process to question the legitimacy of the incumbent President or to question her victory in the 2004 election. The remedy is an election protest and said remedy already prescribed in July 2004." They went on to say that "serial impeachment" reveals the weaknesses of the cases; that impeachment is a mere waste of time and resources of the government; that alleging the President exercised dictatorial powers is "clearly unfounded"; that saying the President committed high crimes by allegedly allowing and abetting the killing of activists is "incredible"; that the declaration of a state of emergency and Executive Order 464 are not grounds for impeachment.

The friends of President Macapagal-Arroyo may believe every word they wrote, but a healthy majority of their countrymen apparently do not. And yet the supporters of the President basically insist that the 17 ladies know better than the hundreds (including several from the House who have endorsed the various complaints) who have stepped forward to complain. No wonder both sides of the partisan divide call each other arrogant, while claiming they represent the authentic voice of the people.

The Palace may point to a survey indicating the public wants to "move on," while its critics point to another survey showing a clear majority of Filipinos want the impeachment case to be seriously addressed this time. It may be pointless to argue over the survey results, but Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Isidro Real actually said the sensible thing: Surveys are "ultimately irrelevant because, with or without it, the House is duty-bound to act on a verified impeachment complaint against the President."

For the pro and anti to give each other dagger looks helps no one. However, the desire of supporters of the President to give impeachment short shrift works at cross-purposes with what administration allies in the House want. They say the complaint is rehashed. Yet the petition to dismiss submitted by the President's supporters clearly spells out how this year's complaint differs from last year's.

And dismiss it, the President's defenders clearly will. As Real said, "The justice committee has scheduled the start of the impeachment hearings on Aug. 8. We expect a faster resolution of the complaints this year since they mainly contain the same old, unfounded, debunked charges."

In other words, Real and the President's many allies in the House have made up their minds. But, as the President's civil society supporters have themselves pointed out, election fraud is just one of many charges, and accusations involving her handling of the state of emergency obviously weren't part of last year's complaint.

The plain truth is that the issue of legitimacy was never addressed by the House. The committee on justice merely ruled on the sufficiency in form and substance of the impeachment complaints last year. Only after tackling those questions could the charges have been adequately addressed. Indeed, this is what Filipinos, as reflected in opinion polls, generally wanted at the time (just as they did at the time corruption charges were leveled against President Joseph Estrada). The country did not get what it wanted, and the crisis proceeded to escalate further.

Since then, other important questions needing answers have arisen. The President's supporters admitted precisely as much when they put forward their arguments against impeachment.

In the end, all sides must ask themselves: Is impeachment merely about numbers, and if so, what kind? Is it about 17 versus hundreds outside Congress, or whoever can be corralled in the House to support the Palace? Is it merely about patronage opportunities, or does it involve a process that permits high crimes and misdemeanors to be corrected and punished? Impeachment is the means for a society to hold leaders accountable without risking revolution or coups, and to block the impeachment process is to ensure the increased attractiveness of extra-constitutional approaches to change. It is the last ditch of a regime of laws and not men, before a society confronts the no man's land of a society in which justice only goes to the victor—no matter how the victory was achieved.

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readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

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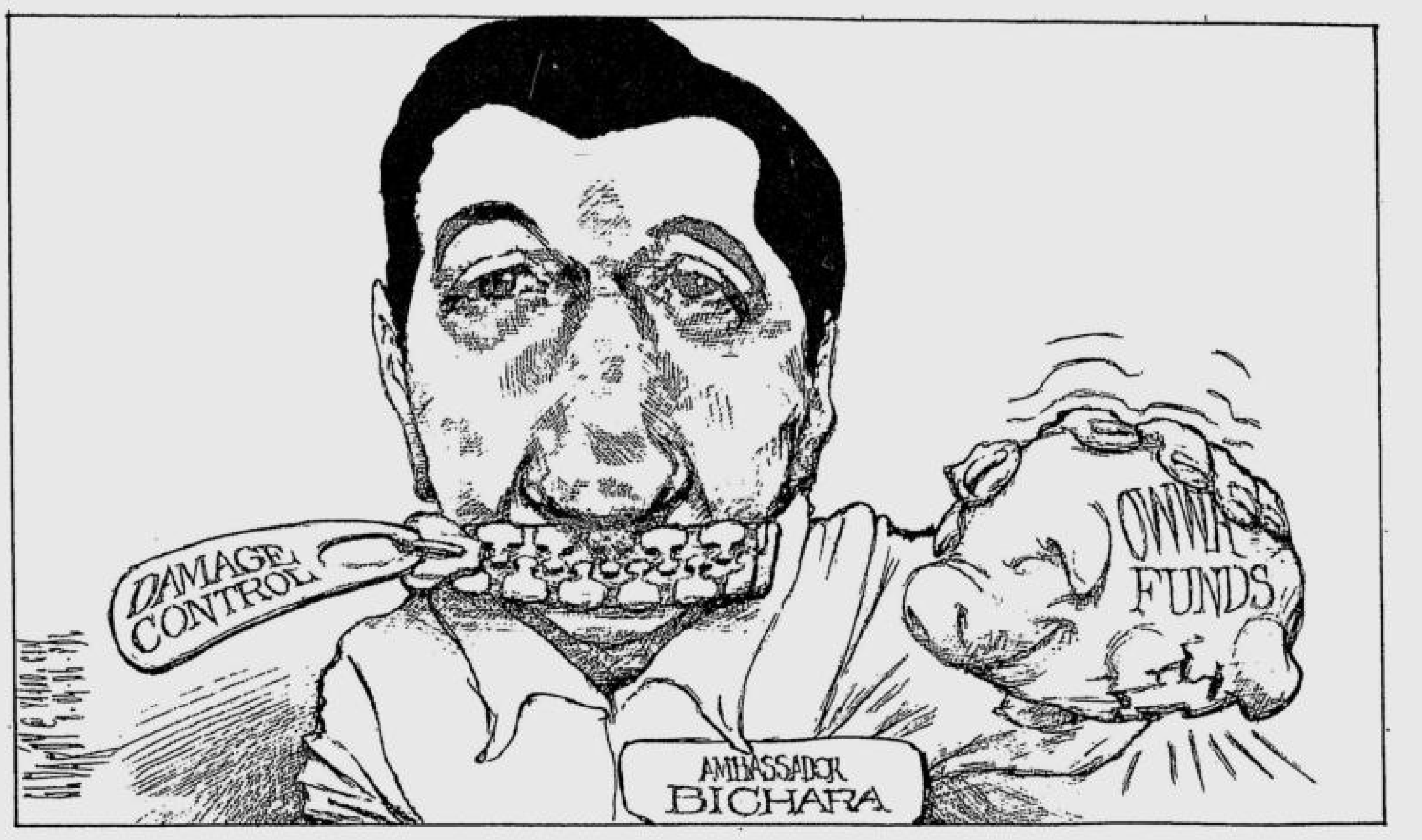

Lebanon war originated in biblical times

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SPEAKING OF AGE-OLD FEUDS, DO YOU know that the present war in Lebanon originated during biblical times, back in the time of Moses? Yes, Moses, the patriarch who escaped from Egypt with the Israelites, the ancestors of the Israelis or Jews. But while Moses knew how to part the Red Sea, he didn't know where to go after leaving Egypt. It seems God forgot to give him a map or directions. What He gave him was the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai, after which Moses no longer wanted to leave the mountain.

It was Moses' lieutenant Joshua who led the Israelites in search of the land of milk and honey promised to them by God. They wandered for many, many years in the wilderness looking for it. At last, they settled on a piece of land. That land was Palestine. And the troubles began.

It turned out that the Promised Land was already occupied by scattered nomadic tribes who were the ancestors of the present Palestinians. Naturally, the tribesmen didn't want the interlopers in their midst, but the Israelites subdued them by force of arms and put up their kingdom.

It can be compared to the settlement of America by the British when the land was already occupied by the native Americans, the Indians. Or the occupation of Australia, again by the British, when the Aborigines were already there. Or, closer to home, by the occupation by the Malays, Indonesians and Spaniards of the Philippines when the Aetas and Negritos where already here. In more contemporary times, it is like a band of squatters putting up their shanties on land that already belongs to somebody else.

The kingdom of Israel achieved its peak during the reigns of Solomon (of the single baby, two mothers fame) and David (of the David and Goliath fame). After this, however, Israel fell into decline because of infighting, and it was finally divided into two kingdoms. Never is the saying "United we stand, divided we fall" more true than in the case of the old Israel. Divided, they were easy prey to neighboring kingdoms. They were repeatedly invaded and occupied by other nations (among them, the Romans during the time of Jesus), until finally the Jews were exiled to other countries. The Jews spread to many countries around the world, especially Europe. Thus was the term "Wandering Jew" born.

During all this time, the Jews longed to return to their homeland. Before World War II, the League of Nations prepared to carve a homeland for them, but the plan was overtaken by the war. Hitler had other plans, and it was not to give them a homeland but to eliminate them all together. He herded Jews in German-occupied lands into concentration camps where they were starved or gassed to death and then cremated. This was called the Holocaust.

Hitler's Nazis even devised a scheme to make murdering the Jews easier and faster. Upon arrival in camp, they were shown to shower stalls, told to remove their clothes, fold them neatly and pile them on benches, then go take a shower. But instead of water spouting out of the shower heads, poison gas came out, killing them within minutes. Then another batch of new arrivals is ushered in.

Discovery of the Holocaust gave urgency to the establishment of a homeland for the Jews. After the War, the United Nations carved a homeland for the Jews in the present Palestine. Jews from all over the world joyfully went to their homeland. Naturally, the Islamic and Arab countries surrounding Israel didn't like what happened.

To this day, they believe the land is theirs, having been settled by their ancestors before the Israelites arrived. The Jews likewise believe the land is theirs, being the site of the old kingdom of Israel, before the Jews were dispersed.

On the day the new Israel was to be inaugurated, the Arab neighbors attacked Israel. But the new nation had a superior air force and tank armies than the Arabs and defeated them in the Six-Day War. Other wars followed, but the Israelis always prevailed.

The Palestinians resorted to guerrilla tactics which, to them, is just the same as terrorism.

For its part, Israel cannot let its guard down because it is surrounded by enemies who have sworn to wipe them off the face of the earth. So it has to hit back hard to discourage the terrorists. Hence the present war in Lebanon.

The Lebanese armed forces are not involved in the fighting. It is the Hezbollah guerrillas who are, and it is they that the Israeli raids are targeting. Unfortunately for the Lebanese and other foreigners, the Hezbollah guerrillas are hiding in civilian houses and when the Israelis pinpoint where they are, they send in their war planes. As always happens, intelligence information is not so accurate and collateral damage is inflicted on non-combatants.

There is something ironic in the present terroristic acts in the Middle East. Terrorism was started by the Israelis, back when they were having a hard time pushing the homeland idea. They resorted to terrorism to force their enemies and the world to give them a homeland. The early leaders of Israel were former terrorists. Now they are getting a dose of their own medicine.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: The United Nations made a survey: "Please give your honest opinion about the shortage of food in the rest of the world." The survey failed because in Africa the people did not know what food was; in China they did not know what "opinion" was; in Europe they did not know what "shortage" was; in America they did not know what "rest of the world" meant; and Filipino leaders who were interviewed didn't know what "honest" meant.

Impunity and GMA's international dilemma

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT delivered to our embassy at The Hague made this damning conclusion: "On paper, the Philippines is indeed a republic… Taking into account that all democratic institutions are formally in place, the [fact-finding mission] considers the situation especially alarming. This makes it abundantly clear that either the constitutional state does not function properly or that there are powers undermining its proper functioning."

The relentless killings in the Philippines have begun to draw international concern, and the irony is that Malacañang's favorite defense may work domestically but will make it even worse for the government internationally.

Domestically, President Macapagal-Arroyo is caught between pleasing her military backers and sustaining a passable veneer of democratic governance. For local consumption, Malacañang may adopt the stock defense—"We had nothing to do with the killings!"—and get away with it. After all, the Palace may argue, why blame poor little Gloria for the crimes committed by dastardly others, conveniently forgetting her solemn oath to "execute its laws [and] do justice to every man."

Internationally, the "Who, me?" defense simply doesn't wash. Our treaty obligation is to respect and to ensure respect for human rights, and to provide effective remedies to victims, that is to say, the almost 700 killed since Ms Arroyo took over as President. That duty is now about to be tested.

A little over a week ago, on June 24, a fact-finding report entitled "From Facts to Action" was delivered to the Philippine Embassy at The Hague. The report was made by an independent delegation of two judges and six lawyers from The Netherlands and Belgium, who investigated the complaints about harassment and killings of Filipino lawyers. Since 2001 when President Arroyo took over, at least 15 lawyers and 10 judges have been killed. None of the killers has been convicted, and indeed, yet another lawyer was murdered just three days before the report was delivered to our embassy. Romeo Capulong, who has served as judge *ad litem* before the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, one of the most prestigious international tribunals today, barely managed to escape an attempt on his life. Two women lawyers have been threatened via text or by being followed by motorcycle-riding men.

"There is a pattern in the harassment and killings of human rights lawyers and judges, which must be seen in the light of other killings in the Philippines including the killings of members of leftist groups. Prior to the attacks, victims are usually labelled by the military as 'members or supporters of the CPP/NPA', 'communists' or 'enemies of the state.' The next step is that victims are threatened and usually subjected to surveillance by the military. The way victims are killed is also similar. Almost all assassinations are shooting incidents with a hit-and-run character conducted by a team of unidentified motorcycle-riding men. Even the most brutal atrocities hardly elicit any decisive action or condemnation from the government; and to this date, all cases have remained unsolved."

The report lists the forms of attacks against the lawyers and judges: torching of vehicles, mysterious calls, death threats (sometimes through text messages), ransacking of offices, warrantless arrests, and, sadly, cold-blooded murder.

"Although the primary duty of the government is to protect the life of the people …. the Arroyo administration has hardly done anything to address the extrajudicial killings effectively. In particular it has neither responded seriously to strong allegations that its own security forces are involved in the killings nor has it taken effective measures to improve the poor record of prosecution of the perpetrators."

The report called on the Philippine government "to condemn the killings publicly and in strong terms." Yet as noted in Thursday's INQUIRER editorial, when President Arroyo delivered her State of the Nation Address, "she first singled out for praise Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the Philippine Army's 7th Division, saying he would 'never retreat until he shall have freed the villages [in the Central Luzon region] from the night of terror' brought about by the communist insurgency. Then without missing a beat, she added: 'In the harshest possible terms, I condemn political killings.'"

The Sona is in the same league as Gloria's "I-am-sorry" speech. There, she gave a measured apology just enough to be contrite but not convicted. Now, she gives a nine-word sound-bite enough to record "condemnation," while parading for applause the main suspect for precisely the reign of terror that she condemns.

President Arroyo has now given her law enforcers 10 weeks within which to show results. Already the responses by the secretary of justice and the Philippine National Police have been half-hearted. Perhaps they think our human rights duties are "obligations of conduct"—to meander along and just show some progress toward a certain goal—rather than "obligations of result"—to guarantee the life and safety of Filipino activists, lawyers and judges against systematic and sustained violence.

The "Who, me?" defense is unavailing in the light of almost weekly killings of activists and of the universal condemnation of impunity today. If GMA is complicit in the crimes, she has blood on her hands no less than the motorcycle-riding assassins. If GMA is truly innocent but is unable to solve a single one of the almost 700 activist deaths, GMA confesses to the world that she is not truly in command, and foreign governments might one fine day just decide to deal with the real powers propping her up on the throne.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

10 cases to wipe blood on the hands

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN RESPONSE TO RISING CRITICISM OVER THE unabated wave of extrajudicial executions, President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Cabinet meeting earlier this week gave law enforcement agencies 10 weeks within which to solve at least 10 cases involving the killing of leftist political activists and journalists.

With that deadline, enforcement authorities are to file with the courts 10 cases in two and a half months or 85 days. That is hardly a confidence-building target, given that 244 leftists and 47 journalists have been killed since the President first took office in 2001. This record has stained the hands of her administration with the blood of the victims of invisible death squads so rampantly on the loose during the past five years.

At the rate of one case a week in 10 weeks, this target barely scratches the surface of the total of 294 killings, virtually reducing the effort to tokenism.

In setting the deadline, the President apparently sought to emphasize that she meant business when she said in her State of the Nation Address, "In the harshest possible terms, I condemn political killings." It was a statement she repeated at the Cabinet meeting.

The response of the law enforcers was less than enthusiastic and made a mockery of the President's determination. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, living up to his well-deserved reputation as the attack hound of the administration, instantly put up excuses. He said, the law enforcers would "try" to meet the deadline, but right away cancelled this with the warning that the effort would be "hampered by many factors, like the attitude of lawyers."

This can't-do attitude was echoed by the Philippine National Police spokesperson who said that while the PNP would "do their best," there were factors critical to prosecution, including "luck" and cooperation of witnesses.

The "best effort" mentality resounded from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Task Force Usig, the PNP's lead agency investigating the killings. "It's hard to say what we can do, say in 10 weeks," said Ermita lamely. "We have objectives but we can't say we can cut this within 50 percent."

The PNP spokesperson said, "Even if there is a deadline, we will have to work within the legal and constitutional framework. We are not going to sacrifice legal procedures ... so we can comply. If there's no evidence against suspects, then we will have to let the evidence speak. We will not be producing fall guys."

The enforcement record of Task Force Usig is appalling. According to its report, law enforcers were looking into 102 murder cases (out of the reported total of no less than 294 killings). Of the 102 cases, 26 have been filed in the courts and 76 are still under investigation. In an attempt to be even-handed, the report distributed responsibility equally to soldiers and policemen and the communists, with 15 cases attributed to soldiers and policemen and 16 to the communists.

This report prompted the Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission to say that Task Force Usig was already denying any police or military responsibility for the killings even before its investigation had been completed. The commission's spokesperson said, "This is prejudging the findings of any investigation and leads to the conclusion that the group is tasked with attempting to cover up any state responsibility for such acts."

Scarcely a week after the Sona, one of the promises it made—i.e., tough action on the killings—has been put to the test and found wanting. The promise has already been undermined by the chief enforcement officials, who are appearing to be the President's worst enemies.

The presidential subalterns either did not take her message seriously, gave it their own spin or did not want to deliver results. Nor were the death squads intimidated by the presidential declaration or by punitive action of the law enforcers. It was a message that bounced off the back of the enforcers, as well as of the hit squads.

A week after the Sona, two activists and one journalist were killed by gunmen within a space of two hours. The activists were associated with the Bayan Muna party-list group.

The dichotomy between presidential intentions and the mind-set of her law enforcers underlines what has been condemned by Amnesty International and the Philippine Commission on Human Rights as the "climate of impunity" that has fostered rampant extra-legal executions, for which they hold the administration accountable and responsible.

The public may as well be prepared for a big disappointment that by the end of 10 weeks, it would have to endure the reign of white terror of the death squads in the weeks that follow until May 2010. The ideological environment and national security policy centered on eradicating the communist movement by 2010 do not permit the end of the killings. These two objectives are not only clashing but are also mutually exclusive. The President is squeezed between them.

What is eminently predictable is that the "all-out war" on the communist insurgency will be carried out without let-up by Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who has vowed that the Army's 7th Division would "never retreat" until it has freed the villages of Central Luzon from the "night of terror" of the communist insurgency. Political militants and journalists will have to live with the nightmare of another form of terror abetted by the state.

Greatness of spirit

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN HE DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN 1957, President Ramon Magsaysay was only 49 years old, just a few months before he was to turn 50.

Information like this occasions self-reflection, if not chastisement. One asks oneself: "He was just 49 and had been not just President of the Philippines, but a larger-than-life figure who to this day embodies qualities like courageous leadership, integrity, compassion for the poor and powerless. What have I done with my life so far?"

But that's the peril one risks in choosing to rate oneself against a man such as Magsaysay.

Fortunately, there have been individuals who have managed to live up to not just the person that RM was, but even to the ideals he espoused and sought in others. The Ramon Magsaysay Awards, proposed by John D. Rockefeller III in behalf of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, with the formal agreement of the Philippine government and Congress, has since searched all over Asia for individuals and institutions who deserve recognition and honor for their work in six fields of activity. The awards, often dubbed "Asia's Nobel Prize," is conferred to honor "greatness of spirit shown in service to the people."

Of the six awardees for this year, two are Filipinos and I'm proud to report that I know both of them. The big news for us at the Inquirer is that the awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts is Eugenia Duran Apostol, known to most of us here as "Tita Eggie." She has been recognized for "her courageous example in placing the truth-telling press at the center of the struggle for democratic rights and better government in the Philippines."

* * *

YOU must forgive us at the Inquirer for feeling that the honor for Tita Eggie is in part an honor for this newspaper, too, and in a way, for all of us who have chosen to be part of it. The Inquirer, which she founded in 1985 with other journalists and publishers—the late Betty Go Belmonte, Star publisher Max Soliven and the late Art Borjal—and conceived initially as a cooperative newspaper, was the logical outcome of a decision she made in 1983 when she defied the Marcosian controls on the media and published stories and photos detailing the massive popular response to the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. Years before this, she had transformed her magazine Mr. & Ms into an outlet for "unpopular" views and news—unpopular among the Marcoses, that is, and their sycophants.

In her years at the helm of the Inquirer, Tita Eggie instilled in everyone who worked for this newspaper her own dedication to the best ideals of journalism, including integrity, fearlessness, curiosity and a feel for the "market," for what people wanted to know about, what they were talking about, what they believed in.

Five years after stepping down as chair of the Inquirer, Tita Eggie entered the journalistic fray once more by publishing Pinoy Times, a small, scrappy weekly that led the rest of the media community in exposing the excesses of the Estrada administration and led the charge in the face of President Erap's thinly veiled attempt to intimidate the free press.

While Tita Eggie has received accolades as a press freedom champion and advocate of responsible journalism, little mentioned is how she—and her late husband Peping—often backed their convictions with their personal funds. Though she could have rested easy after leaving the Inquirer, she lost a bundle with Pinoy Times, which despite its huge popularity during the anti-Erap protests, lost its appeal after Erap left the scene.

Today, Tita Eggie spends her leisure time with ballroom dancing while shouldering another advocacy: the state of public elementary education, through the Education Revolution. You can take a crusader out of a newspaper, but she will always find a good cause to espouse.

* * *

I MET the other Filipino awardee, Tony Meloto, a year or so ago in, of all places, a McDonald's outlet along Commonwealth Avenue, from where we proceeded to a Gawad Kalinga village in Payatas. Meloto is being recognized in the field of Community Leadership along with Gawad Kalinga. He is cited for "his inspiring Filipinos to believe with pride that theirs can be a nation without slums," while GK is being honored for "harnessing the faith and generosity of Filipinos the world over to confront poverty in the Philippines and provide every family the dignity of a decent home and neighborhood."

Meloto's is a touching life story of a young man who grew up in poverty, overcame it with the help of a scholarship at the Ateneo, then chose to abandon the "good life" when he found himself inspired by urban poor settlers he had helped organize. From learnings he gained from years of work with a relocated community in Cavite, Meloto launched Gawad Kalinga with the support of Couples for Christ, a religious organization. Since its founding, Gawad Kalinga has built thousands of homes in hundreds of locales, giving the people not just new and decent housing, but a sense of community, with shared values and ideals.

There are those who take issue with the way Gawad Kalinga builds communities: proceeding from a template of uniform pastel-colored houses and landscaped neighborhoods, instead of allowing these to grow organically as the people themselves might prefer. And I do have issues with some of its "teachings," such as stringently championing natural family planning instead of respecting the recipient-families' right to make their own fertility decisions. But in its own way, and in proving that we need not spend all our time condemning the social order but can contribute to building up Philippine society, GK and Meloto do live up to the criterion of "greatness of spirit."

Opting for war

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TALKING TO OLDER HISTORIANS MAKES ME wish I had been born 30 years earlier. I envy those who were able to interview people who experienced the Philippine Revolution first-hand or at least knew someone who personally knew a hero or two. At a dinner recently, someone was bragging about his grandmother who was 9 months old when Rizal was shot, but that's not much to go on unless the *lola* listened to the stories of people who were actually in Luneta that morning.

Reading through the 1899 interview of Antonio Luna is as close as you can get to hearing him, that is, presuming that the transcription is faithful and that we are not just given the parts of a long interview that La Independencia felt was important or, at least, flattering to the person who was interviewing, in this case the editor of the newspaper himself. What is fascinating in the interview is the hard-line stance that Luna took to continue the war to the last man and not to give in to the "peace" dangled by the Americans. Some members of the Malolos Congress who had never smelled gunpowder and had business interests to protect turned their backs on the Revolution and the Filipino-American War. These were the same people who had been on the right side of the fence when Spain was in power. They moved to Malolos and wormed their way into Emilio Aguinaldo's good graces when the Filipinos were winning the war, and finally they wanted to turn yet again when the United States was the power to beat.

Reading the conclusion of the Antonio Luna interview, it is little wonder that he was assassinated by presidential bodyguards in Cabanatuan:

Q: What is your opinion in reference to the manifestation of the Anti-Imperialist League?

Antonio Luna (AL): This is my opinion about the Anti-Imperialist League: If it be sincere, be it blessed and may its humane sentiments be blessed. But it is necessary to be aware of one thing: General Merritt said in his proclamation of August 13, 1898, "The United states declares itself the protector of oppressed races, and will not take possession of a single piece of Filipino territory." Compare these words with what happened at San Juan del Monte when the American soldiers opened hostilities by firing on ours.

I detest war, I hate it; but for the independence of the country, it is necessary to accept it. The Americans fought with abnegation to defend theirs, they themselves understand in the bottom of their souls why we resist.

The League asks us to deliver our arms. This thing is impossible to accept. And what confidence have we in America, in its Congress and in its anti-annexationists? How can we place any confidence in them after all that has happened? Our arms are our only defense. Once we deliver them, we are at the mercy of our conquerors and our only remedy will be to accept their conditions.

I often wonder whether or not it may not be a new means of deceiving us. America wishes to demonstrate before the whole world that she wishes to come to terms of peace for the sake of humanity, but by asking something that is impossible, and that is, that we give up our arms. If their conditions are not accepted by us, acts of greater energy and a greater effort to annihilate us would be justified by the world. Perhaps I am mistaken, because I am not a politician, but it is necessary to look ahead.

Q: Do you think, General, that the continuation of the campaign will give us the victory at the end?

AL: Undoubtedly! Remember that as yet we have not even begun. The Spaniards knew well enough what guerrilla warfare means and what thirty or forty thousand armed natives, who knew the nature of the country and who are also sober and hardy, can do. We are able to cause more deaths by surprises and ambuscades than by serious encounters, without taking into account that the fevers, dysentery and other ailments will produce a greater number of deaths in the enemy's ranks. Our victory will not depend on our arms; it will depend on our tenacity and armed attitude. I calculate the expenses of the Americans at $150,000 daily to maintain their army and navy. Every day that passes is a victory for us because our wants are few, while for them with every day that passes they have to sustain a double defeat: one defeat caused by casualties from the climate, and another economic defeat.

Q: Have you heard it said that our people are not with us?

AL: It is not true! You must say that that is a solemn lie. All the Filipinos are with us. I wish they would arm all in order to convince us. They all run, they all abandon their towns. Why? Americans give them rifles, pay them well and within a short time we will see what will happen.

At the end of the interview, Luna walked his visitors out of the office and at the stairs gave these parting words: "Continue the defense of our ideal without faltering and without falling back; constantly advocate Independence and preach to all that they must be firm, that they must not be alarmed, but must work and fight with faith. The triumph is ours! Justice and right that are now on our side will conquer. There is one cry for us: Viva la Independencia!"

Our picture of the period would be complete if historians had more interviews like this.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Who's next?

THIS MORNING, I RECEIVED A TEXT FROM A FRIEND based in Baguio. I'm translating the text: "Update from those who visited Chandu. He's OK now. Can communicate. Hope he'll pull through." That was the uplifting part, but the text ended: "Alice's burial on Friday."

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Chandu is Dr. Constancio Claver, a physician working in the Cordilleras and chair of Bayan Muna in Kalinga. Last Monday, his family was ambushed by armed men on board two vans. Chandu and a bystander suffered gunshot wounds and both are now recovering. Sandy, their 7-year-old daughter, was in the van and was spared but suffers from shock. Alice, Chandu's wife, died from her wounds.

On the same day they were ambushed, there were two other political assassinations. League of Filipino Students provincial spokesperson Raymond Guran was killed in Sorsogon, and Tanod tabloid photojournalist Prudencio Melendres was shot to death in Malabon. I've lost count of the figures from the human rights groups, but the three murders add to the more than 700 political assassinations that have occurred under the Arroyo presidency.

Bobby de la Paz

The attempted murder of Chandu has shaken health professionals, reminding many of us of the assassination back in 1982 of Dr. Remberto "Bobby" de la Paz.

I got the news by phone from Dr. Mita "Mamita" Pardo de Tavera. She went straight to the point: "Bobby was killed yesterday."

I was stunned. Bobby and I worked for Mamita's AKAP, an NGO doing community-based health programs with emphasis on tuberculosis control. Bobby and his wife Sylvia, who was also a physician, had chosen to serve remote areas in Samar. It was a dangerous time because to the Marcos dictatorship and the military, anyone who served the poor had to be a subversive.

The people whom Bobby served thought otherwise. He was well loved, content with his P1,000 monthly salary and occasional gifts from patients. As he lay dying from his gunshot wounds, a call went out for blood donations. Hundreds of townsfolk came forward, offering to donate.

Bobby was 29 when he died. His mother, Mommy Lydia, was visiting at that time and recounted later, how Bobby had asked, as she cradled him in her arms: *"Masakit, masakit. . . Bakit, bakit* (It's painful, it's painful. . . Why, why)?"

Medical neutrality

Almost 25 years after Bobby's death, this attempted assassination of Chandu makes us ask why again. Why is this nation, with all the trappings of a democracy, reliving the nightmare of the Marcos dictatorship?

Doctors are a respected lot in the Philippines, seen almost as gods, so even a hired assassin has to be driven by a ferocious hatred before he can pull the trigger. Bobby, big gentle Bobby, took 22 bullets.

Chandu also served Kalinga as a physician to the poor, and his attempted assassination sends a signal to other doctors working in similar circumstances to be careful, for they could be next. I remember Bobby telling me how the military would sometimes ask him why he had chosen to serve in Samar, and didn't migrate to the United States. At that time, doctors could still migrate to America, without becoming nurses.

The Philippines is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and several other international protocols which recognize medical neutrality. In relation to health professionals, that's summarized in two sentences in the Code of Medical Neutrality: Medical workers shall be respected, protected and assisted in the performance of their medical duties. Medical workers shall not be punished for providing ethical medical care, regardless of persons benefiting for it, or for refusing to perform unethical medical treatment.

The Philippines is suffering enough from the exodus of health workers, including doctors turned nurses. Those who have remained generally stay in the cities, serving the upper classes. With the attempted assassination of Chandu Claver, the stark message we get now is this: "Stop working with the poor. Get real and migrate. . . We need your dollars more."

Desperate

I have heard people arguing, but "these people" are leftists. So? If I recall right, we live in a democracy, which respects political pluralism. With President Arroyo's repressive government, Bayan Muna and other leftist groups are among the dwindling courageous voices that help keep her from imposing a dictatorship. The assassinations are attempts to silence the remaining voices.

Each assassination has brought more demands for investigations, but for the most part, the government has chosen not to even respond to the appeals. Only recently has the President began to call for investigations, but those are seen as coming too little, too late, especially when compared to the praise she heaped on Jovito Palparan, a military officer who does not try to disguise his disdain for human rights, during her State of the Nation Address.

We have to ask, too, who else would have the resources and logistics for so many assassinations nationwide, conducted in such similar styles, and with such similar targets. The murders are too clearly linked, backed by experts in murder and psychological warfare. Just last June, another Bayan leader, Markus Bangit, was killed in Isabela. Shortly after, Alice Claver received a text message referring to her husband: *"Matapang si Doc. Hindi niya kayo mahal* (Doc is brave. He does not love you)."

A disturbing possibility arises: Has Ms Arroyo, as commander in chief, lost control of the more hard-line factions of her government, both civilian and military? Marcos chose to ride the military tiger, but in the last few years, old and sick, he lost control even as the military tried to outdo him in trying to keep the dictatorship.

No one thinks Marcos personally ordered Bobby's assassination in 1982, but his years of dictatorship had created a culture of impunity that allowed that assassination. We didn't know it then, but in retrospect, Bobby's murder was the beginning of the end of the Marcos dictatorship as it turned more and more paranoid. In 1983, opposition leader and former Sen. Benigno Aquino was assassinated too when he tried to return to the Philippines. No longer acts of impunity, the killings became the last acts of desperation of a failed state.

***

Rally: Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) and Health Action for Human Rights are calling health workers to participate in a protest rally at 10 a.m. today, Aug. 4, in front of the Department of Justice. Please wear white.

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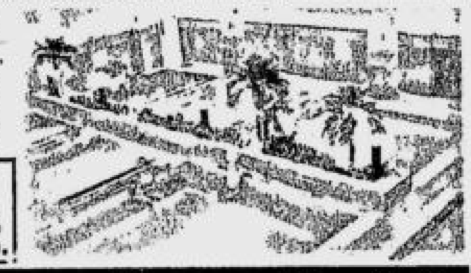

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This nasty practice of giving envelopes

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MY ENVELOPE CAME IN THE late 1970s.

As a faculty member of a public high school, I was assigned for poll duty in that year's elections. Before the elections, my co-teachers and I were asked to proceed to a room for a briefing.

After some waiting, a politician's son came with a bunch of envelopes in his hand, gave them to the principal and left. The principal promptly distributed the envelopes to us. No briefing. No explanations.

I looked at my co-teacher and said, "*Ang mura naman natin.*" Without a fuss, I returned the envelope to the principal.

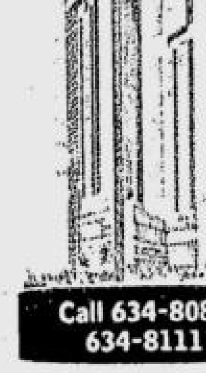
Another teacher was assigned to take my place. I never found out how much the envelopes contained (certainly much less than the P30,000 to P50,000 in the envelopes given to the bishops).

Full of idealism, I never regretted my action. I wonder how many envelopes people in "sensitive" assignments have received since then.

When the sender of the envelopes died recently, praises were heaped upon him. Sadly, my memories of him are far from pleasant.

—EUFEMIA C. ESTRADA,
39 Annapolis St.,
Greenhills, San Juan,
Metro Manila

7:00 am
10:00 am
3:00 pm
7:00 pm



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Not BCDA's words

WE WRITE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST CONcern regarding the news item titled "Taiwanese firm, BCDA cite Poro Point port." (PDI, 7/24/06)

As public affairs manager of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, I am directly responsible for all the media releases and statements coming from the BCDA. It was thus a total surprise for me to read the story since the BCDA had not issued any statement regarding the matter.

In May and June of this year, the INQUIRER likewise printed stories about a supposed nongovernment organization, the National Consumer Welfare Advocates Inc., criticizing the BCDA.

We have checked with the Securities and Exchange Commission and found out that there is no such entity registered with the SEC. We have also asked the La Union Chamber of Commerce and Industry through its president, Robert Lim, who told us that his organization did not know a business and civic leader in La Union by the name of Conrado de los Reyes, the source of the series of the news reports that tended to put the BCDA in a bad light.

It is our sincere belief that the INQUIRER is unwittingly being used by sinister elements in publishing fiction that tend to mislead the public regarding the ongoing corporate dispute in Poro Point.

—LEILANI B. MACASAET,
manager, Public Affairs Department,
Bases Conversion and Development Authority,
BCDA Corporate Center,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

Bishop should share burden

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

RECENTLY BISHOP ANTONIO TOBIAS USED the pulpit to slam President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address. How befitting for a priest to use the Holy Mass to bash a person he considers his enemy. How wise for a "servant of God" to be as opportunistic as this. And how convenient even. He didn't have to join a protest march or rally to do this. He didn't even care if the people present wanted to listen to his homily. He was preaching economics!

It would not have been surprising if it were an opposition politician speaking. But a bishop? And inside a house of worship at that? For goodness sake!

The bishop said there was no way President Arroyo could get the money to finance her proposed projects in three years. Well, the Catholic Church could help. Has anyone seen a poor priest around? No, these "servants of God" are very privileged. With tax-free and free-flowing income, they are like the Royal Family of England. Money comes into their coffers at the snap of a finger.

I say it is time to tax these "fishers of souls" and put their incomes under public scrutiny. That would be good economics.

Bishop Tobias should start counting his money and sharing the burden of finding sources to finance projects that are for good purposes. The same goes for all the priests who think they know better.

And please, don't forget to pray for us!—**Edwin Tayag, United Kingdom (via e-mail)**

* * *

We now seem to be witnessing the transformation of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into a dreamer who has gone out of touch with reality, the reality being that she is not the legally elected President of this country but presides over the lives of its people anyway. She has "blazed" trails that might condition our minds into believing that we are on our way to her "enchanted kingdom," which is reminiscent of Imelda Marcos' theory that there's a "hole in the sky pointing to the Philippines."

Ms Arroyo earlier made the preposterous promise, backed up by a P1-billion fund, to defeat the communists in two years. Even military experts doubt if it is possible, with some of them making a safer projection of at least five years.

Killing unarmed leftist elements, human rights activists, volunteer workers for the poor, or local media practitioners might be the focal objective. But the police and the military do not need P1 billion to buy state-of-the-art weaponry to annihilate these easy targets. They are being killed daily with impunity already.

Now Ms Arroyo has proposed creating "four super regions," and all of a sudden "there is money for all these projects."

An INQUIRER editorial mentioned experts' findings on how much was needed to service the growing national debt, which takes the lion's share of the national budget. If the country has to meet its debt obligations, there will be only one-fourth of the budget left to make the government machinery run.

Ms Arroyo announced that her goals—or dreams—would be realized in three years, 11 months, a few weeks and days from now.

Dreaming, as the INQUIRER said, is free. But Ms Arroyo is not being paid with the people's money to dream the impossible.—**Ramon A. Mayuga, Germany (via e-mail)**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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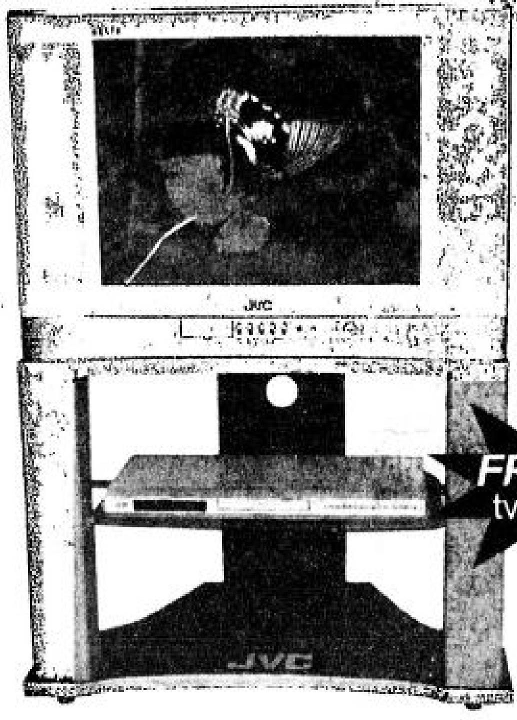

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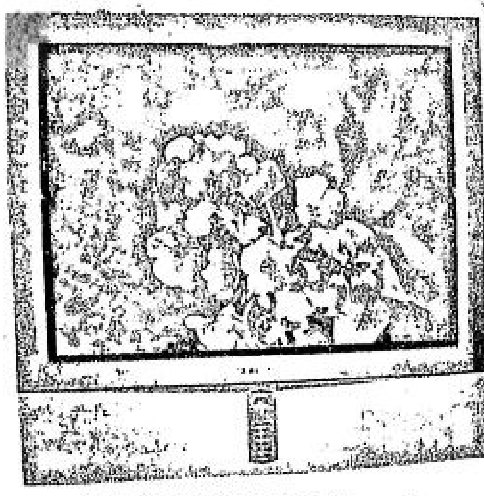

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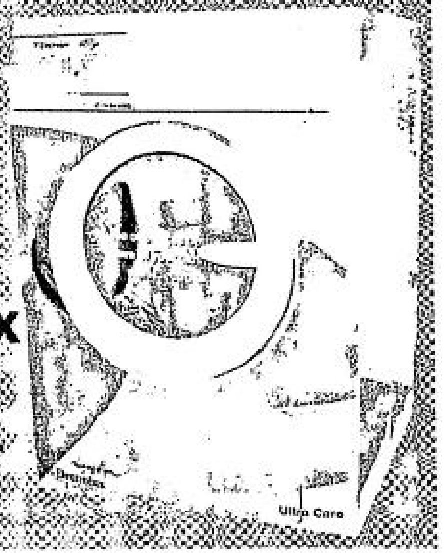

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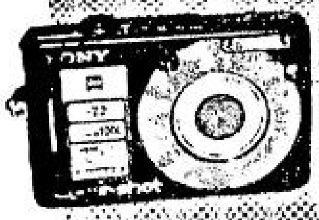

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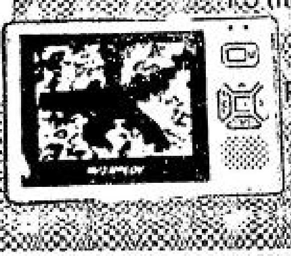

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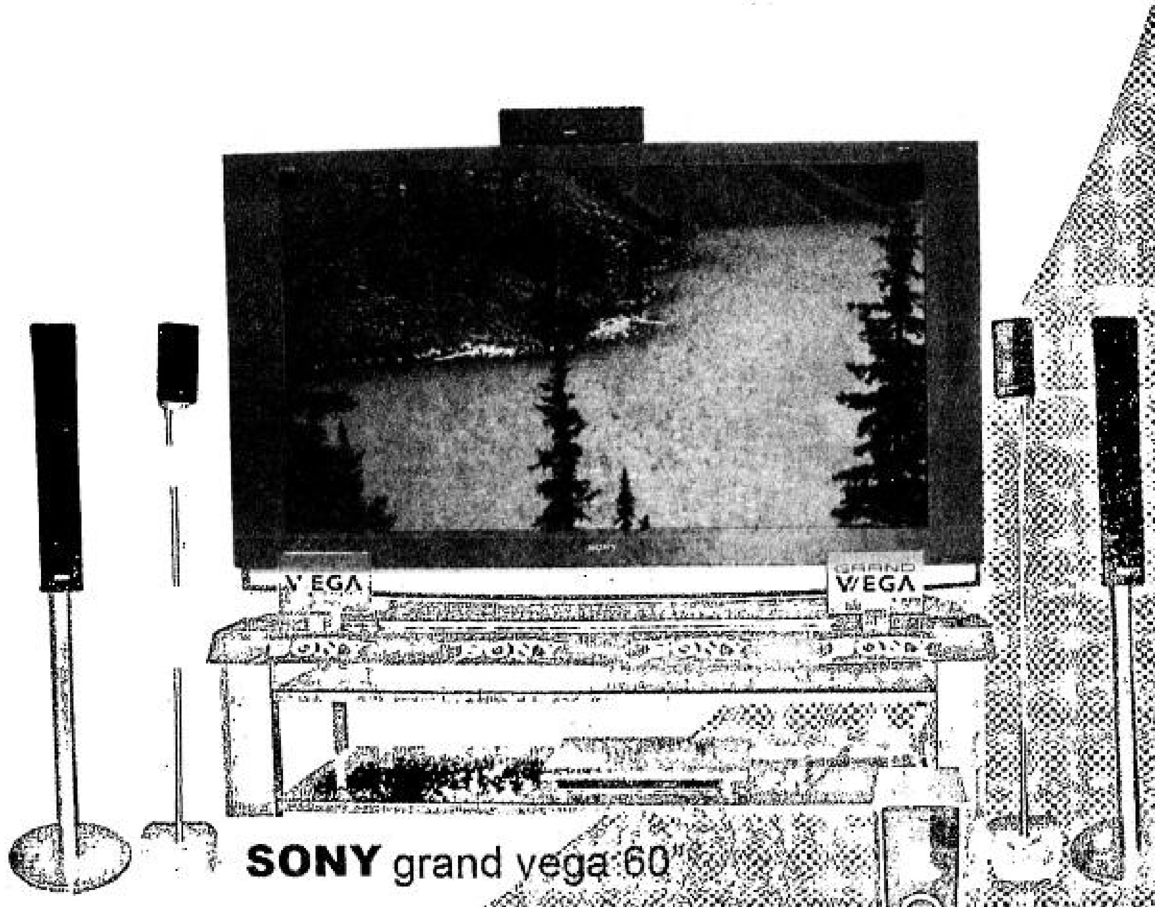

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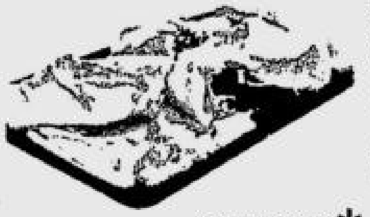

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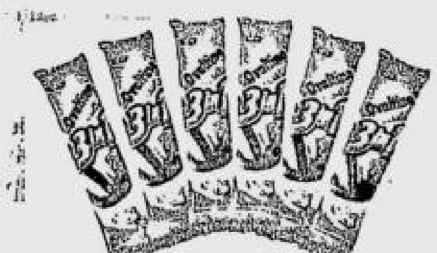

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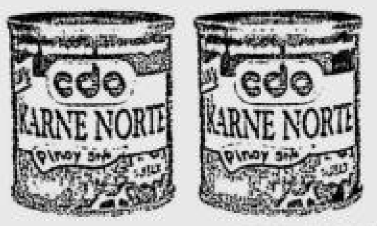

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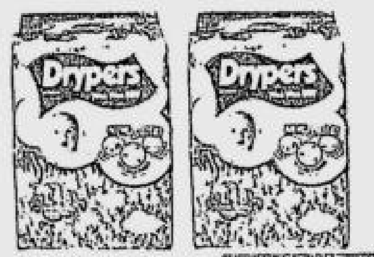

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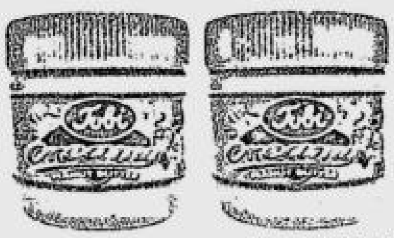

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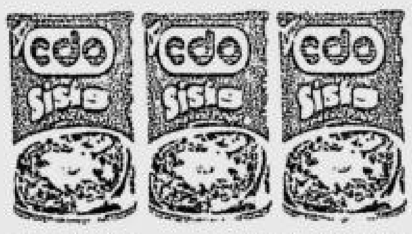

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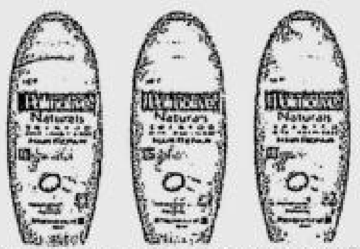

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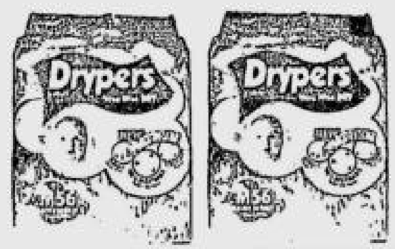

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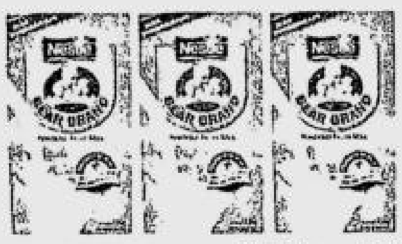

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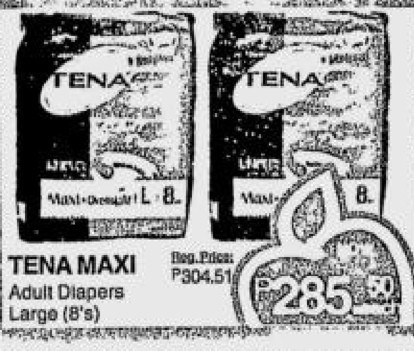

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 8335, Series of 2006

Two Filipinos die in Lebanon

From page A1

the apartments of their employers.

Citing a report by Philippine Ambassador to Lebanon Al Francis Bichara, De Castro said the embassy first received unconfirmed reports of the two deaths only on July 29 due to "dilatory factors attendant to the current crisis situation in Lebanon."

These factors included the closure of certain roads due to Israeli air strikes, the congestion of landlines/mobile networks and the highly erratic schedule of local authorities.

He said the embassy arranged for the transfer of the bodies to the Baabda Government Hospital Morgue and the documentary requirements for the repatriation of the remains through Harb Est/, the mortuary regularly commissioned by the embassy.

Based on the medico-legal reports of the Directorate General of Internal Security Forces, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER, Tomagan, who was in her 30s, fell from the apartment when she tried to escape from her employer to join the mass evacuation of OFWs.

Pangilinan, 24, fell from the balcony of the home of her employer, Richard El Hajj, in Masourieh, while reportedly cleaning a window.

De Castro talked to the parents and families of both Pangilinan and Tomagan last night at the Owwa office.

He said Tomagan had been complaining to her family that she was being maltreated by her employer and that she wanted to get out. He said that when Tomagan's mother informed her of the evacuation effort of the government, Tomagan probably saw it as an opportunity to escape.

"We must have a mandatory evacuation if we are to expect a zero-casualty rate in a war that is increasing in breadth and tempo," the President said in a televised roundtable discussion on Lebanon a day after she ordered all 30,000 Filipinos there repatriated.

"The window for safe evacuation becomes narrower for each day that battles ensue on land," she added.

Ms Arroyo said the government had enough funds to bring home all the OFWs. Some of them have refused to leave Lebanon despite the violence, citing poverty and the lack of opportunities at home that has driven 10 percent of the Philippines' 85 million people to find work abroad. Their dollar remittances are helping keep their country's economy afloat.

But the President said it was better to evacuate now than to wait until the fighting had worsened.

'Supermaids'

"I want to assure our countrymen who come home from Lebanon and whoever is forced to leave for work overseas, it is our policy to allow our citizens to work only in safe places," she said. "Our country is always ready to put you out of harm's way and to help you find work and recover."

She said that through the National Livelihood Support Fund, P100 million would be provided to help the OFWs take part in livelihood and microfinance programs, including the "Tindahan Natin" project in impoverished communities.

Ms Arroyo promised the OFWs, many of them domestic helpers, that the government would help them find work either at home or in the Middle East, like Dubai. This included upgrading their skills so that they would become "supermaids."

"They should (be able to) find jobs with families who will offer them high salaries," she said.

Augusto Syjuco, head of the government's Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, said the "supermaids" program includes instruction in first aid, evacuation from high-rises in case of fire and other skills to help maids get higher pay.

"They are not just maids. They are really very well trained now," he said. "If there is someone injured among the family they work for ... how to get out of a fire in a high-rise building, all these are part of our upgrading program."

House-to-house calls

The President directed government officials to ensure that they would be able to locate all the OFWs in Lebanon, including by making "house-to-house calls."

Marianito Roque, Owwa chief, told the President that labor and diplomatic officials were calling the OFWs by telephone.

Roque said 2,372 OFWs had registered with the Philippine Embassy in Beirut their desire to be evacuated once a mandatory evacuation was ordered. The figure did not include more than 2,000 OFWs who had been repatriated upon their request.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion told Ms Arroyo that upon returning home, evacuees would be provided with, among other things, airport arrival service, temporary shelter, domestic transport to their provinces, pyscho-social and medical assistance if necessary.

As for employment services, Brion said the evacuees would be entitled to livelihood and entrepreneurial assistance, skills training for work scholarships, job search for local employment and reemployment for overseas jobs.

All the evacuees have to do is sign a registration and assistance form upon arrival and submit this to officials, Brion said.

Only soap, shampoo

However, one returnee told the INQUIRER that when she arrived at the airport, all she got was soap and shampoo.

In Congress, a bill creating a P500-million standby fund for the mandatory repatriation of the OFWs from Lebanon passed in the House appropriations committee yesterday morning—24 hours after it was introduced. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Philip C. Tubeza, Jerome Aning, AP*

OFW evacuees decrease as airlift operations rise

By Volt Contreras

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the total evacuation of overseas Filipino workers from war-torn Lebanon, officials in Manila had yet to report a surge in the number of OFWs who want to return home.

The once-packed parish of the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Beirut, which served as the OFWs' evacuation center, had only "80 to 100 evacuees" as of Wednesday night in Manila, a Department of Foreign Affairs official yesterday said.

"We've been told that there's now only a small number left behind (at the parish) and we still don't know of any increase as of now," DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque told the INQUIRER.

Reached at around 2 p.m., Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. said "we are now having difficulty filling up" the third and last humanitarian flight chartered for OFWs by the International Organization for Migration.

As he spoke, Conejos said, only around 300 passengers had been confirmed for the 450-seater Boeing 747 aircraft scheduled to arrive in Manila on Sunday.

Asuque reported that a total of 2,173 Filipino evacuees from Lebanon had made it back to the country as of Wednesday, on 20 commercial and chartered flights since July 23.

The last two IOM-funded flights arriving today and on Aug. 6 will be carrying at least 900 OFWs, bringing their total to 3,073, he added. The first IOM-chartered plane landed early Wednesday morning.

Citing escalating attacks between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, Malacañang on Wednesday extended Alert Level 4—calling for mandatory evacuation—to Filipinos in all parts of Lebanon.

Prior to the announcement, this alert status covered only OFWs based in that country's southern region.

Conejos, the DFA undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, said his office had set up a phone brigade to "reach as many OFWs as possible in the shortest time" using contact numbers provided by their families, to relay the Palace directive.

His immediate objective, he said, was to come up with the total number of OFWs whose conditions and locations had been ascertained by the Philippine government, and then determine just how many of them really intended to leave Lebanon.

With a report from Nikko Dizon

PNP offers ₱100,000 reward for info on political killings

From page A1

and compared to the millions of pesos offered by the government in other cases, Pagdilao said the reward was not considered a bounty.

He said the amounts were smaller because in cases where the suspects had been charged in court, the issuance of arrest warrants showed that probable cause had been found against them.

"In this case, the information may lead to the identity of the perpetrators. Just that," he said.

Asked why the decision to approve the reward system was made so late in the day, Pagdilao said the issue was "the subject of discussion long before" President Macapagal-Arroyo laid down on Tuesday a 10-week deadline for the arrest of suspects in at least 10 political killings.

He said Ms Arroyo's directive merely hastened the decision.

Pagdilao said what the PNP was trying to avoid was a situation where citizens would help in the investigation only because of the offered reward.

"What about our civic duty? Citizens have a civic duty, too ... to help solve crimes and [to help make] our communities peaceful and orderly," he said.

Avenue for dialogue

Pagdilao also said the police were not evading responsibility for the government's failure to stop the killings. "What we are trying to say is we need everybody's help and assistance. You have to help your police so the police will be able to [fulfill] their mandate of solving crimes so we can all live in a peaceful community."

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said the multisectoral conference set next week was intended to "expand the avenue for dialogue with the concerned sectors and agencies involved in the overall effort [to stop the killings]."

He said expressions of cooperation and support by national media organizations had encouraged the police to hold the dialogue.

"Our aim is to enlist the cooperation and support of all concerned sectors to complement all ongoing police action on cases of slain journalists and militants," Calderon said in a statement.

He added: "We are also extending the invitation to the [NDF] and its affiliate organizations to participate in this dialogue, primarily to address the two main issues of noncooperation and apathy on the part of witnesses and those who are in possession of vital information or evidence."

Calderon noted that the NDF had earlier proposed the formation of a joint panel to conduct a deeper probe of the murders.

Appeal to int'l groups

"We welcome this proposal as a gesture of the CPP/NDF's willingness to cooperate. We are looking forward to discuss this during the dialogue," he said.

In Baguio City, militant groups called on the international community to condemn the political killings.

"We appeal to other governments, international bodies and institutions to denounce these killings and withdraw their support for the Philippine government until it [honors] its international commitments and obligations on human rights," said Joan Carling, chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA).

"None of the killers has been identified. The state does not take any measures to effectively address the killings," said Beverly Longid, vice chair of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance.

Carling said the July 31 assassination of Alice Omengan-Claver, Bayan Muna-Kalinga coordinator, and the attempted murder of her husband, Dr. Constancio "Chandu" Claver, Bayan Muna-Kalinga chair, indicated that the government wanted to create "a climate of fear."

She said the murder of 244 leftist activists and 47 journalists had heightened the climate of fear.

Carling said militant groups in Baguio had been seeking support from human rights organizations and other advocacy groups in the United States, Europe and Japan since February.

In that month, CPA officials obtained a copy of a supposed military "hit list" containing the names of activists in the region, including Carling and other leaders of the CPA, Bayan Muna and farmers' organizations in the Cordillera.

Carling said CPA members had been harassed and put under surveillance by suspected military agents. She said some had received death threats. *With reports from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

They can't be considered 'random killings,' says UP prof

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE SCALE AND BRAZENNESS of the attacks on people espousing a certain ideology cannot be considered "random killings," a peace advocate and political science professor said in response to Malacañang officials' outright dismissal of her analysis that the murders could be part of state policy.

Commenting further on the political killings, University of the Philippines Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer said their "programmatic nature" could be concluded from the common modus operandi employed by the assassins and the typical government response of "immediately exculpating government personnel."

She said it could also be glimpsed in "the slow action of concerned agencies, the promotion and show of public support for [Maj. Gen. Jovito] Palparan, and the throwing of the burden of producing witnesses to the public."

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales had earlier described as irresponsible Ferrer's expressed view that the unabated killing of leftist activists appeared to be in line with a slant in the security policy adopted since 2002, when the government noted the good showing of electoral groups espousing "national democracy," a program closely identified with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had branded Ferrer's view as "very unfair."

Similarities

Ferrer, who specializes in the history and politics of Southeast Asia, observed that the victims shared similar backgrounds.

"At the time of their deaths, they belonged to (or in the case of some, were former members of) national democratic groups like Bayan, Bayan Muna and the League of Filipino Students," she said.

Ferrer said that prior to the murders, victims received death threats or heard they had been included in a "hit list."

The killers also appeared to be trained assassins able to elude arrest although their acts were carried out in public places, she said.

'Salvaging'

In fact, Ferrer said, the use of extrajudicial killings or "salvaging" as part of national security operations was "not new."

She said the martial law regime and past administrations had employed it against forces opposed to the state.

"What is appalling is that this state of affairs continues and has deteriorated to this extent 20 years after we had restored formal democracy and enshrined human rights in our Constitution," Ferrer said.

Wave of killings, abductions in Lupao

IN LUPAO, NUEVA ECIJA, residents and officials called attention to the wave of killings and abductions in their town.

Lupao officials said six cases of murder and five cases of abduction had been reported by residents and relatives of the victims in the past six weeks.

The latest murder victim was Board Member Alfredo Vendivil Sr.'s 34-year-old son, Alfredo Jr., who was shot and killed on Tuesday near his house in Barangay Cordero.

"The situation is alarming. We should join hands to stop the killings and abductions and to ease the pain of the victims' relatives," Alfredo Sr. said.

Among the others killed were Eugene Estes, village chief of San Isidro; Andres Manangan, village councilor, also of San Isidro, and Mario Florendo, a Bayan Muna member.

The town, about 60 km northwest of Cabanatuan City, was the site of the 1987 "Lupao massacre," where 17 people, mostly elderly and children, were killed in a supposed clash between rebels and government soldiers. An Army lieutenant was killed by a sniper bullet before the firefight.

NPA forms 'hit squads' to get activists' killers

From page A1

form the special teams, "for the purpose of counterattacking the masterminds and operatives of the murder machine."

They would be "knowledgeable about their assigned areas of special operations," said the CPP publication titled "Major Points in the Tit for Tat Struggle against the US-directed War of Terror" and downloaded from the party's website www.philippinerevolution.net.

The CPP urged the relatives, friends, organizations and churches of the victims, as well as local and international human rights organizations, to expose and condemn the military and police for their liability in the killings. The Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, which has been tasked with solving the murders through Task Force Usig, have repeatedly denied the accusations.

Strike against masterminds

"But the best way for the New People's Army to respond to the bloody intrigue of the enemy is to strike hard and resoundingly at the masterminds and operatives of Bantay Laya, from the level of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security to the level of the death squads," the party said.

The killings are allegedly part of the government's counterinsurgency program dubbed Oplan Bantay Laya. The CPP and its armed wing, the NPA, has been waging an armed rebellion against the government since 1969.

In the course of its guerrilla war against the Marcos regime in the '70s and early '80s, the party deployed hit squads called "sparrow units" for their swiftness in carrying out assassinations in urban centers, including Metro Manila. In 1984, the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) was formed to continue the attacks, but the group broke away from the CPP in 1996 over ideological differences.

Among their prominent targets were US Army Col. James Rowe and Gen. Tomas Caringal.

Fair probe

Several lawmakers yesterday sought the PNP's assurance of expeditious but fair investigations by Task Force Usig.

Rep. Benasing Macarambon of Lanao del Sur and Rep. Eduardo Veloso of Leyte said no "fall guy" should be sacrificed in the effort to meet the President's 10-week deadline to solve the murders of journalists and left-wing activists.

Macarambon said no one should be spared from the investigations, be they military or NPA, criminal syndicates, and even the controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division. Palparan has been accused by militant groups of orchestrating the killings and other violations of human rights. He has denied the charges.

"The PNP can absolve General Palparan if there's no evidence showing his involvement in the killings, but only after a thorough probe. But if the PNP unearths strong evidence against him, then he should be charged and if found guilty, drummed out of the service and incarcerated," said Macarambon.

Veloso said there must be no "sacred cows" so that the probes would be credible.

Climate of impunity

"The PNP should investigate all aspects of each case, and give periodic updates on their progress to Local Government Secretary Ronnie Puno. There should be no stone left unturned in the probe. Otherwise, it will not be a credible one and its findings will be disputed," said the lawmaker.

Party-list Representatives Rafael Mariano and Satur Ocampo assailed Malacañang's pronouncement on Wednesday that it could not "cut to within 50 percent" the number of unsolved killings in 10 weeks as ordered by Ms Arroyo.

The remark "would further embolden the death squads. It's an outright disregard of the victims' clamor for justice," said Mariano.

"Not lifting a finger on Palparan and being uncertain of government actions is tantamount to an added assurance to death squads that they can go on with their killing spree because the climate of impunity remains," he said.

In a privilege speech on Monday, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo held the Arroyo administration "accountable" for the killings "to a large extent."

"It must be noted that the Commission on Human Rights has said the same, as it called attention to the climate of impunity in the past five years. So has Amnesty International," he said.

Ocampo said since the fourth quarter of 2005, one person had been killed every two days. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and PDI Research*

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Across the NATION

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US moves out wounded RP troops in Sulu

JOLO, SULU—AMERICAN FORCES STATIONED in the province under the RP-US Mutual Defense Agreement have provided support to the major offensive against Abu Sayyaf bandits keeping Indonesian terrorists Omar Patek and Dulmatin, a ranking military official said yesterday.

As this developed, around 500 families have fled their homes in Indanan as the military fired howitzers against some 200 Abu Sayyaf bandits holed up in at least three villages of the town.

The artillery barrage, aimed at clearing the way for more assaults, occurred yesterday morning as fighting broke out anew in Barangay Bonot, according to Col. Pablo Lorenzo, commander of the Army's 35th Infantry Battalion.

Lorenzo said no casualties on either side were reported during the 10-minute gunfight.

But Ustadz Habier Malik, a local commander of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), said what occurred was a clash between the soldiers and MNLF men. "There was no Abu Sayyaf involved," he said.

Malik said the problem was addressed when Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, deputy chief of the Southern Command, stepped in.

"I hope the military would be careful next time to avoid a similar incident," he said.

The local MNLF leadership, which had been accused of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf in the past, has pledged to cooperate in the operation dubbed "Oplan Ultimatum."

Since the assault was launched on July 31, three Abu Sayyaf bandits have been killed. Two of them were identified as Hardy Ahadjul and a certain Pata, brother-in-law of Ismin Sahiron.

Sahiron is a son of Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron and was being sought for his alleged role in recent bomb attacks here.

Five soldiers have been wounded.

Edmund Gumbahali, chief of the Philippine Information Agency in Sulu, said a former Marine, who was acting as guide to government security forces, was killed in Tuesday's clashes in the villages of Purot and Karay.

But the military has not confirmed the reported death of the civilian guide.

Col. Antonio Supnet, Southcom chief of staff, said US soldiers based in Sulu helped evacuate the wounded soldiers.

Supnet said two wounded Marines were airlifted to Camp Don Basilio Navarro Hospital in Zamboanga City, while three others were now confined at the Camp Asturias Hospital in Jolo.

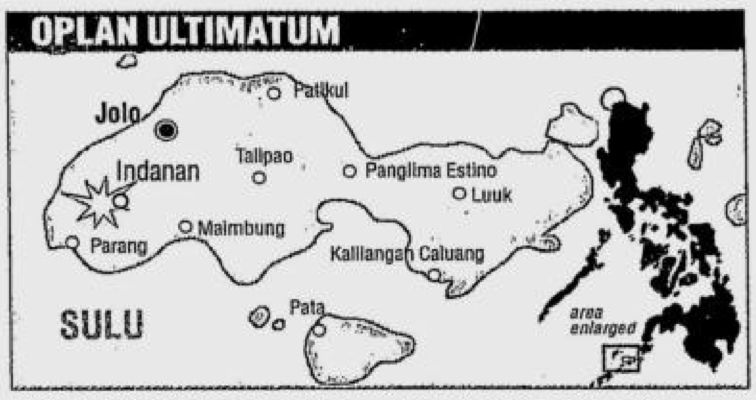
US soldiers under the Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP) were also helping in intelligence work and training Filipino troops, he said.

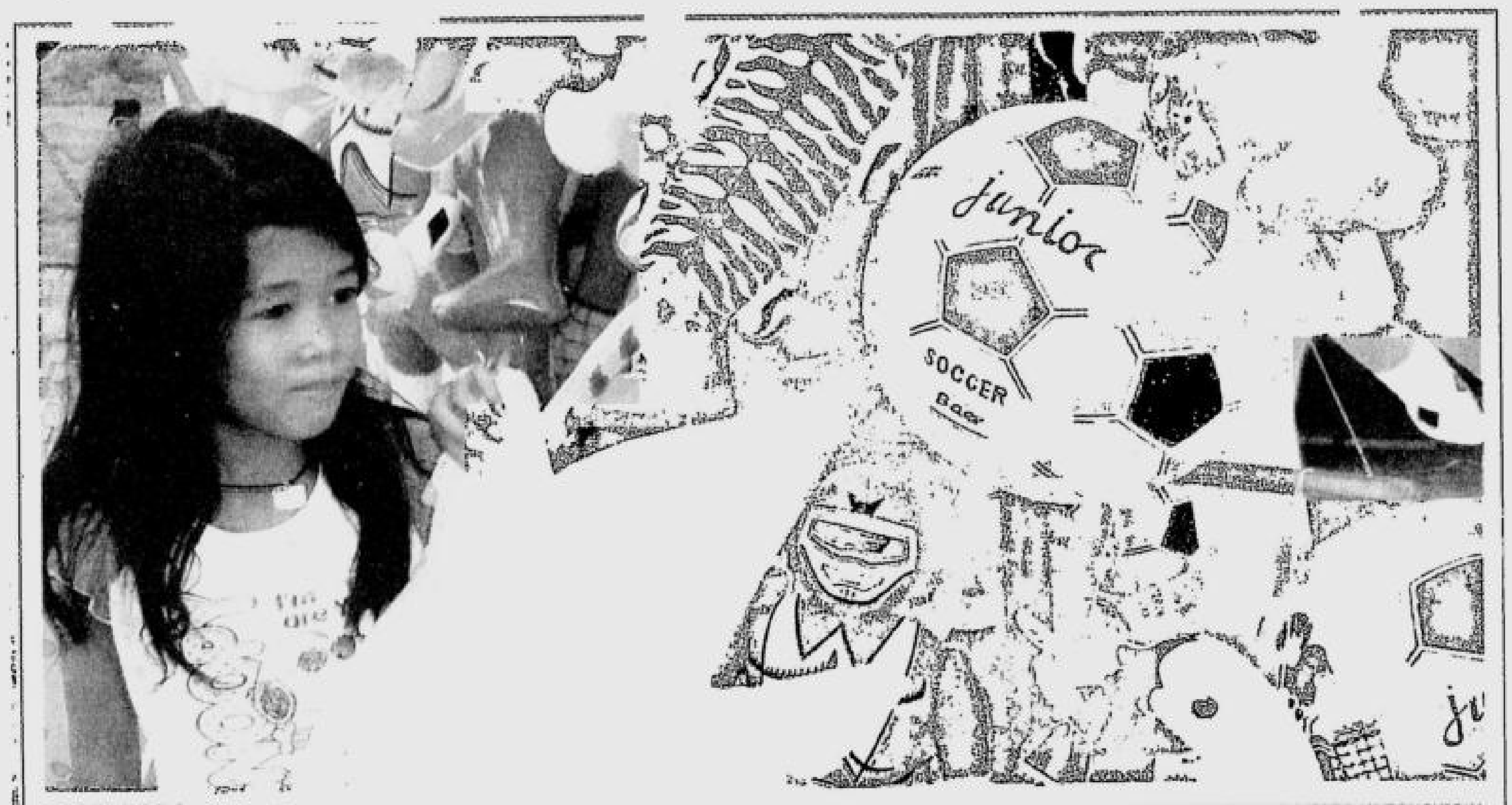
But he clarified that no US soldier had been involved in actual combat. "They are supporting the AFP in the operation through the Kapit Bisig framework, such as providing humanitarian assistance, civil military operation program and life support system" he said.

Supnet said US soldiers were also helping relocate displaced civilians.

Gov. Benjamin Loong said the number of evacuees might swell as the offensive, now on its fourth day, continued. *Julie Alipala and Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

OPLAN ULTIMATUM





TOY PALS

A girl amuses herself among toy balloons being sold in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

VILLAMOR VISAYA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Nickel mining covered by permit, says DENR exec

PLATINUM GOLD METALS Corp. (PGMC) continues to comply with provisions in the mining permits issued by the provincial government of Palawan to operate in the town of Narra in a bid to help generate local jobs and government revenues.

Guillermo Estabillo Jr., chair of the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board, said in a letter to the INQUIRER that the operations of PGMC had sustained the efforts of the government to generate hundreds of jobs, improve the lives of residents, and raise taxes for countryside development.

Estabillo sent the letter in reaction to an INQUIRER report on July 26 that PGMC and other firms were operating without permits in Narra.

He said the firms possessed small-scale mining permits issued by the provincial government.

He added that Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes "has nothing to do, as far as processing and approval of the small-scale mining permits are concerned" to clarify allegations by the environment group Kilusang Laban sa Mina sa Narra (KLMN) that PGMC owner Rafael Atayde and Reyes "are close to each other."

Estabillo added that the permits were issued long before Reyes took over the Department of Environment and Natural Resouces.

He said PGMC had been complying with all the conditions of its operations as stipulated by its permit from the provincial government.

Estabillo, who is also the concurrent regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said the company was able to satisfy the requirement of holding a series of public consultations before it started operations.

PGMC also passed the stringent conditions and scrutiny of the regulatory board and the provincial government, he said.

Gov. Joel Reyes approved the operations of PGMC in 2004, allowing it to extract 50,000 metric tons of nickel per year for two years until November.

A two-year extension has been granted to PGMC.

The provincial government is mandated by law to approve and issue mining permits, while the regulatory board functions only as a recommendatory body.

Estabillo said periodic inspections showed that the mining operations did not violate any provisions in the environmental compliance certificate issued to PGMC.

"PGMC even adopted an environmental protection and enhancement program," he noted. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPAs hijack 2 buses in Isabela village

CAUAYAN CITY—SUSPECTED communist rebels seized two buses plying the remote village of Villa Concepcion here on Friday, police reports said.

Senior Supt. Jude Santos, acting Isabela police director, said about 30 New People's Army rebels, believed to be under the Reynaldo Piñon Command operating in central Isabela, first took a Tattao mini-bus at 1 a.m. but abandoned it when the vehicle ran out of fuel.

The bus was found on a dirt road in Villa Concepcion, 7 km from the company's terminal, reports said.

Santos said the group took another bus, owned by Ibus Lines. He said policemen had yet to recover the vehicle and were still tracking down the suspects.

Empty buses

The buses, which residents of Villa Concepcion take in going to the city proper, had no passengers when seized, Santos said.

Edwin Bangkil, the bus driver, told police that the hijackers were armed with M-16 and M-14 rifles and forced him out of the bus.

On July 21, NPA rebels raided a police sub-station in Barangay Maligaya here and took with them two M-16 rifles, two M-14 rifles, radio communication sets, and documents.

The hijacking of the buses came as NPA rebels stepped up attacks on government targets and warned local government officials, particularly in Quezon, against committing abuses.

"We will not hesitate to enforce punishment against government officials who would be found guilty ... by the people's court on charges of plunder, grave violation of human rights, environmental destruction and being protector of criminal syndicates like those into illegal drugs," Ka Armin de Guia, spokesperson of the NPA's Apolonio Mendoza Command, said in his first mobile phone interview with local media.

No hit list

However, the AMC leader did not disclose whether his group already had a target list of abusive officials.

De Guia said that his group didn't know yet of any local politician who openly fought and opposed the revolutionary movement.

On Monday, the CPP-Military Commission ordered NPA rebels to ambush "enemy" politicians and government officials, aside from other new combat plans that had been spelled out in its message titled "Major Points in the Tit for Tat Struggle against the US-directed War of Terror."

De Guia dismissed the threat of Maj. Gen. Alexander Yaho, the new commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command, of intensifying attacks against communist guerrillas in Southern Tagalog and Bicol.

Yaho, the former chief of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division based in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, succeeded retired Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., and became the 20th Solcom commander.

The NPA-AMC leader belittled the capability of government troops to effectively launch a renewed counterinsurgency campaign. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Teachers, students complain about tent schools

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

STA. PAZ, SAN FRANCISCO, Southern Leyte—Teachers and students here are complaining that the tent schools that students of this landslide-threatened village were required to transfer to since Monday was only "fit for animals."

"Look around if this area is suited for people. We are treated like animals here. The place is muddy, a ricefield," said Carmencita Maturan, a fourth year high school teacher of the Sta. Paz High School.

She said the Department of Education, which ordered the transfer of the school from Sta. Paz to Barangay Cawi, should have prepared the area.

She lamented that they were made to move to the new school ground on Monday although it had not been raining for several days.

"The advisory for us is that if the rains continue for three days straight, that's the time we move to higher grounds. But there is no rain. It's even sunny since Saturday," she said.

Maturan, however, said since they were already in the new school site, they would have no choice but to "just make do with this muddy place and accommodate at least 70 students per tent."

A resident of Cawi offered the area, about 800 meters from the original school ground.

More than 10 villagers volunteered to work on the tent and its flooring. While students and teachers were talking inside the tent, several students were hauling stones as filling materials from a creek near a big river.

The DepEd regional office ordered last week the immediate transfer of the Sta. Paz Elementary School and the Sta. Paz National High School from their locations, warning that it would pull out its teachers should they refuse.

The transfer was prompted by a recommendation of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, with the help of experts from the Cebu-based Atlas Mining, for the immediate transfer of families living at the foot of Mt. Sta. Paz because of huge cracks in its slopes that could lead to massive landslides.

There was no problem at the relocation of the Sta. Paz Elementary School since they were relocated outside Cawi's barangay hall.

About 300 families of the landslide-threatened village have agreed to relocate but still hoped that the government would be able to address the landslide threat without them leaving their homes.

JANI ARNAIZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

THE TENT schools in Barangay Sta. Paz. A place fit for animals, according to some teachers and students.

2 school kids killed as jeep rams tricycle

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—What was supposed to be an ordinary school day for elementary students turned into a nightmare after a wayward jeep slammed into the tricycle they were riding in Nasugbu, Batangas early Thursday, killing three persons, including two children, and injuring five other children.

Supt. Jojo Pumida, Nasugbu police chief, identified the fatalities as tricycle driver Marcial Dellupac, 48, and elementary pupils Alexis de la Cruz, 9, and Ronil Castillo, 10.

Injured were Julius Abariño II, 10, Julius Abariño III, 8, Nenian Dadula, 9, Rey Jade Rol, 9, and sister Aira Sharaine Rol, 6.

Pumida said the victims were from Barangay Lumbangan, Nasugbu town.

He said the victims had just left their houses and were traversing the national highway on their way to school at around 6:15 a.m. when an approaching jeep (DWJ-514), driven by Ronald Erilla, 22, suddenly went wayward and hit the tricycle. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bid to open US nurse test center in RP kept alive

BAGUIO CITY—THE CHEATING scandal in the recent nursing licensing examinations has not yet cost the country its bid to establish a local testing center that will offer American licensure exams, a Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) official said here on Thursday.

Before licensed Filipino nurses can work in the United States, they are still required to pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEx) so they can practice their profession there.

Ruth Thelma Tingda, PNA Cordillera governor, said the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing had been monitoring the controversy because one of its prerequisites for offering the NCLEx here was that the Philippines "must be able to assure complete security of information."

Tingda, dean of the Easter College's School of Nursing here, helped three other Baguio nursing school officials and more than 90 examinees expose the distribution of test leakages to clients of a nursing review center during the board exams.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), which administered the exams, said the test leakage attributed to the review center was traced to two members of its board of nursing. The PRC released the test results on July 19.

Tingda, former PNA Ilocos governor Erlinda Palaganas, PNA Baguio chapter president Norenia Dao-ayen, and Dean Mary Grace Lacanaria of the Saint Louis University sued PNA president George Cordero before a Baguio court last week for ordering them to suppress the exposé.

Cordero had told them that he wanted to protect the country's NCLEx application, Lacanaria said.

Nurses seeking employment in the United States end up going to Guam or Hong Kong, where the closest NCLEx centers are located.

Lacanaria said her group had asked the PRC to revoke Cordero's nursing license for violating the professional code of ethics.

Cordero and top PNA officials met with the deans last week, but they failed to settle their differences over the exposé.

Instead, the deans and members of the PNA American chapter asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene in the leakage scandal.

The deans said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza and Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan had already sponsored resolutions for congressional inquiries into the integrity of the country's nursing education and profession. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SOUGHT AFTER
Umbrella repairmen, many of whom are Maranao migrants like this man, are now the most popular people in Baguio, bringing back to life umbrellas that have been pummeled by recent rains.

Mayor suspended over marble transport fees

SAN MIGUEL, BULACAN—OMbudsman Merceditas Gutierrez has suspended Mayor Edmundo Jose Buencamino of this town for six months on charges of abuse of authority filed against him by the head of a mining company operating at the Biak-na-Bato mountain range.

Gutierrez ordered Buencamino's suspension on April 24. A copy of the order was received by registered mail on Wednesday by Constantino Pascual, president and chair of the board of Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. (RMDC).

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Buencamino for comment.

Pascual filed in August 2004 complaints of grave misconduct, abuse of authority and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service against Buencamino for allegedly getting from his firm at least P12 million in pass-way fees for more than a year.

According to Pascual, the amount did not go to the municipal treasury. He claimed there were no original receipts issued to RMDC and its contractors.

Since Buencamino became mayor in 2004, the operations of his firm and his contractors had been disrupted, he said. He said the mayor and his men collected a P1,000 fee from each truck carrying marble blocks or quarry materials.

Buencamino had earlier denied that the receipts he issued to RMDC and its contractors were fake.

But Director Emilio Gonzalez of the office of the Ombudsman and Victor Fernandez, deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, found that the receipts were not signed by the municipal treasurer.

"This only shows that the official receipts ... were just manufactured because these were not signed by Municipal Treasurer Marciano Cruz," Gutierrez said in her order.

Buencamino said he ordered the collection of the fees based on a municipal ordinance requiring trucks loaded with marble blocks or quarry materials passing through the roads of San Miguel to pay the fees.

But Pascual said the ordinance had been voided by a provincial board resolution. Buencamino, however, said he was not aware of the board resolution and that he collected the fees "in good faith." *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Moro rebel killed in ambush

COTABATO CITY—A Moro rebel leader was killed in an ambush by unidentified men in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, the military said. Abu Hashim, commander of the 105th Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces based in Barangay Inug-ug, was on his way home on a motorcycle when he was attacked on Sunday, Lt. Col. Johnny Bucu, chief of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion, said. Bucu said the killing could have been triggered by a grudge between the victim and another group. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Deadline for Lipa squatters

LIPA CITY—Squatters have been given until Aug. 15 to renew their temporary electricity clearances from the Urban Poor Affairs Office (Upao) in order to legalize their electricity connections. The Batangas Electric Cooperative II (Batelec II) has reset the deadline from July 30 in response to the people's request, said Zaida Masangkay, Batelec II division manager. Masangkay said only 1,541 people living along the railways and are qualified beneficiaries of the Villa sa Riles housing and relocation project, may apply for another clearance. They need not pay for the renewal of the one-year clearances, she added. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

1 killed in Quezon clash

LUCENA CITY—A suspected New People's Army member was killed in an encounter between government forces and communist rebels in Barangay Veronica, Lopez, Quezon on Friday. Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command, identified the fatality as Jessie Gamosa, an alleged cadre of an NPA group operating in the Quezon-Bicol boundary. Broso said police and military troops chanced upon an undetermined number of rebels massing up in the area, triggering a 10-minute battle. The fleeing rebels left behind Gamosa's body and personal belongings. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Suspected rebel captured

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Army soldiers clashed with New People's Army rebels near a cell site of Globe Telecommunications Inc. in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro on July 24, a belated police report said. One of the rebels was captured during pursuit operations. Regional police director Chief Supt. Delfin Genio identified the rebel only as Ka Boy, an alleged member of the NPA's Lucio de Guzman Command. Genio said soldiers of the 80th Infantry Battalion, led by Cpl. Valerie Velasco, were fired upon by two men while checking reports of NPA presence near the cell site in Barangay Burgos. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

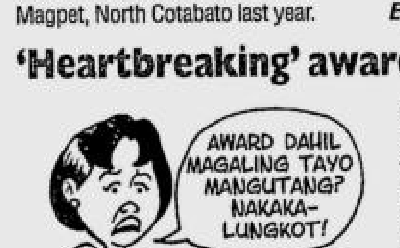
Narra lumber recovered

LUCENA CITY—Police and environment personnel found at least 39 pieces of narra flitches that were abandoned in Mauban town on Monday, a local environmentalist group reported Tuesday. Sheila de Leon, head of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, said a concerned citizen tipped off Insp. Laudemer Llaneta, chief of the Mauban police, about the forest products stacked along the coastline of Barangay San Jose. The seized flitches, worth about P121,000, were reportedly owned by a certain Iko, of Mauban. De Leon said the products were illegally cut in Isabela and brought by boat to Mauban. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Top NPA leader captured

COTABATO CITY—A top leader of the communist New People's Army in North Cotabato was arrested in Kidapawan City on Monday, the military announced. Col. Ruperto Pabustan, 602nd Infantry Brigade chief, said Roberto Asupra, alias "Tatay Kardo," Avelino Catamura and Alfonso Tobiano, allegedly headed the District Committee 1 of the NPA's Front Committee 53. Asupra was arrested in front of Highlander Hotel by Army soldiers of the 39th Infantry Battalion and intelligence agents of 602nd Infantry Brigade. Seized from him were a .38 cal. revolver and a hand grenade. Pabustan said Asupra led an NPA raid on a police station of Magpet, North Cotabato last year. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Heartbreaking' award


AWARD DAHIL MAGALING TAYO MANGUTANG? NAKAKA-LUNGKOT!

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—For South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Fuentes, there is nothing to brag about the Borrower's Award bagged by the Philippines. "That's the most heartbreaking award. We should not be proud about it," Fuentes said. She said the award just showed that the country's economy was still very dependent on foreign borrowings. Euro Money Magazine recently gave the Borrower's Award to the country, claiming it was good in paying back loans from foreign creditors. Bill Andres, regional spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the government had been religiously paying its foreign debts at the expense of the Filipino people. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: July 25, 2006
Loan No.: MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp05.NPS2TLSS. Vt-0066

1. The ***National Power corporation (NPC)*** has received a loan from the ***Miyazawa Funds*** for ***Negros-Panay Interconnection Project*** (Stage 2) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Survey, Design Supply of Materials/ Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Negros-Panay (Stage 2 – OHTL & S/S) Project.***
2. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)*** administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:
   Survey, Design, Supply of Materials/Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Negros-Panay (Stage 2 – OHTL & S/S) Project.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department***, *Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting July 31, 2006 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Thirty Thousand Pesos (PHP 30,000.00).***
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:
   Two Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty Seven US Dollars (US$219,447.00)
   The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.
   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on August 17, 2006.
   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on September 28, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for the project is **450 calendar days**.
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 28 August 4 & 11, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Ombudsman Building, Agham Road,
North Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City
TELEFAX # 929-3759

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BIDDING FOR ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (113) UNITS PERSONAL COMPUTERS, ONE HUNDRED NINE (109) UNITS LASERJET PRINTERS AND EIGHT (8) UNITS LAPTOP COMPUTERS

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, through its continuing appropriation, intends to apply the sum of **SEVEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND PESOS (Php 7,887,000.00)** for the Office of the Ombudsman One Hundred Thirteen (113) Units Personal Computers, One Hundred Nine (109) Units Laserjet Printers and Eight (8) Units Laptop Computers, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN** now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the said requirement. Delivery of the goods/services is required within the period as prescribed in the bidding documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder/s with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. In case two (2) or more bidders tie in the financial proposals, and are eventually found to be equally post-qualified, "drawing of lots" shall be resorted to as the tie-breaking method in accordance with GPPB Circular No. 06-2005. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lone Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after Post Qualification, or after the drawing of lots in case of tie.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, inspect and/or purchase the Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Eight Thousand Pesos (Php 8,000.00)** at the address given below beginning **AUGUST 24, 2006** from 8:00 a.m. to **5:00 p.m.** daily.

The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on **SEPTEMBER 5, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount not less the amount provided hereunder:

FORM OF SECURITY	MINIMUM AMOUNT OF % OF ABC TO BE BID
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and half percent (1½%)
3. Surety Bond (GSIS only)	Two and a half percent (2½%)

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

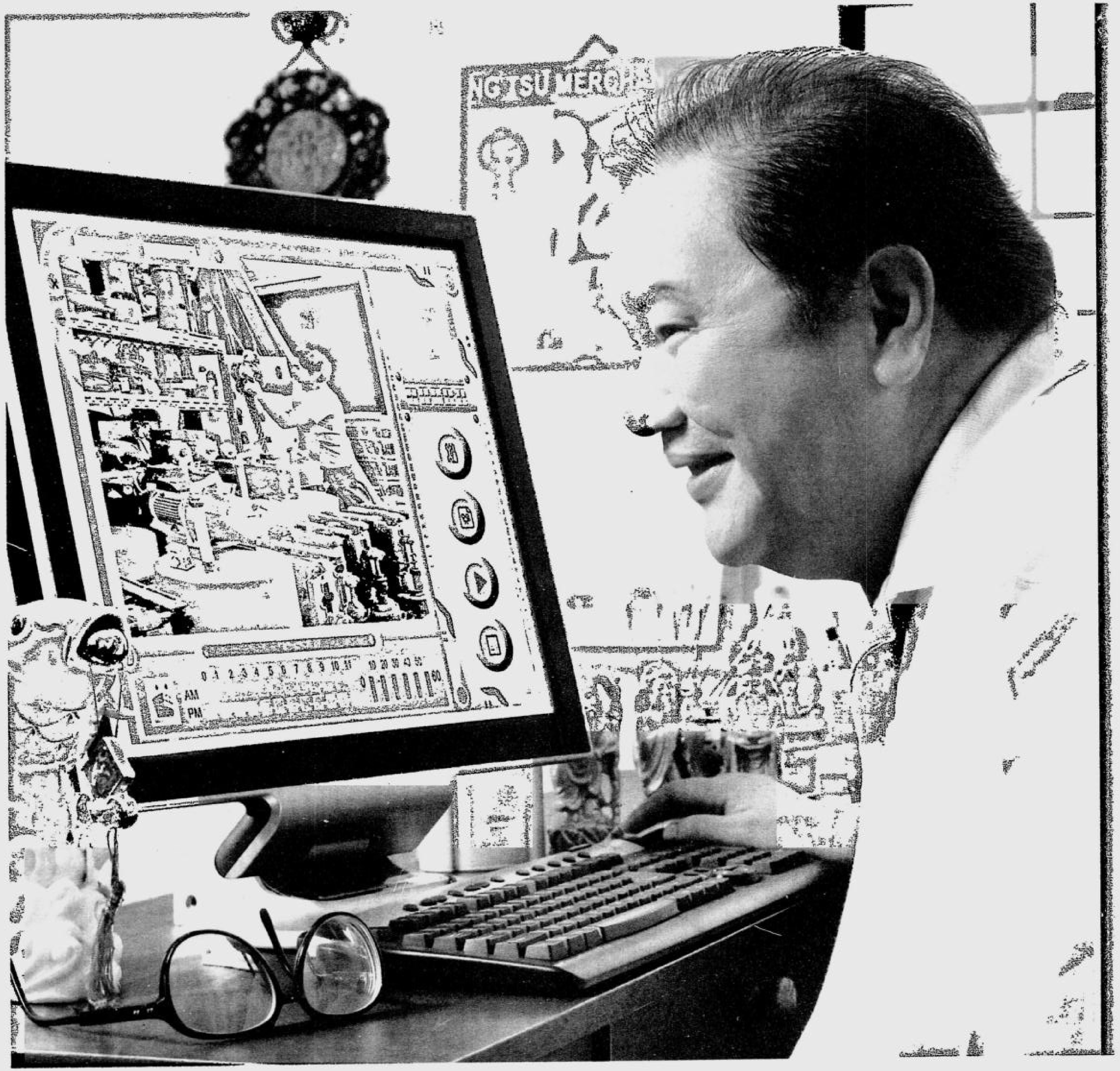
1. Pre-bid Conference	24 August 2006 @ 10:00 a.m. BAC Secretariat, GSD Office of the Ombudsman Building, Q.C.
2. Issuance of Bid and Eligibility Documents	24 August 2006 BAC Secretariat, GSD Office of the Ombudsman Building, Q.C.
3. Deadline of submission of Eligibility Documents & Bids	05 September 2006 @ 9:00 a.m. BAC Secretariat, GSD Office of the Ombudsman Building, Q.C.
4. Opening of Bids	05 September 2006 @ 10:00 a.m. BAC Secretariat, GSD Office of the Ombudsman Building, Q.C.

The **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
2/F Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 926-9032 local 221 / 929-3759
Email: cas@ombudsman.gov.ph
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ROBERT E. KALLOS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 4, 2006)



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CA finds columnist guilty of libel

RAFFY Tulfo JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Armand N. Nocum

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY upheld a lower court's ruling which found tabloid columnist Raffy Tulfo guilty of 14 counts of libel after it found "actual malice" in the articles he had written about customs collector Carlos So.

Sentenced along with Tulfo to a jail term of 28 years were Abante Tonite publisher Allen Macasaet and managing editor Nicolas Quijano.

The 72-page decision dated July 31 and penned by Associate Justice Andres Reyes Jr. also ordered the three to pay So over P14.7 million in fines and moral, exemplary and compensatory damages.

"It had been held many times by the highest court that there are statements which would not be covered by the Constitutional protection. In this case, there was enough proof of actual malice," the court said. "There was also enough proof of 'reckless disregard of whether they are false or not.' Thus, the said articles are indeed libelous," it added. From 1996 to 1999, Tulfo, in his column "Shoot to Kill" had accused So, then the chief of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, of allegedly having shady deals, extorting money from brokers in the Bureau of Customs, having an affair with a married woman, and for allegedly owning luxury vehicles, among others.

The CA did not give credence to Tulfo's defense "that he had good intention and justifiable motive" in writing the articles and that it was his duty to let the public know about the complaints against a public official. The INQUIRER tried to reach Tulfo for comment, but calls to his mobile phone were not answered.

Feud between old friends affects GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS "hurting" from the controversy generated by the worsening rift between her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, and INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo.

"The President just recovered from the flu and the issues raised here are too personal. It's unfair to her because she is a woman and these things, even if they are not true, are hurting her," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said in an interview with dzMM radio yesterday.

Tulfo and his brothers Erwin and Raffy held a press conference the other day where they accused the First Gentleman of pressuring government-owned TV station RPN-9 into canceling their program "Isumbong Mo (Tulfo Brothers). According to Tulfo, Arroyo was getting back at him because of his exposés on the alleged smuggling activities of the First Gentleman's rumored mistress, Victoria Toh.

Arroyo, meanwhile, through his spokesperson, lawyer Jesus Santos, vowed to take the Tulfos to court over what he called "rehashed malicious lies and gossip."

Defensor said the word war between the two should have been settled discreetly. Both men, he added, should have considered the President's feelings on this matter and opted to just bury the hatchet quietly without taking their fight out in the open. "They are close friends, they can settle this as friends," he said.

Defensor admitted Tulfo had contacted him before coming out with his exposé and that Ms Arroyo knew this. "The President said that if there is really a smuggling case against Toh and her brother Tomas (who, Tulfo claimed, was also involved in smuggling) they should be punished," Defensor said.

Biz school's temporary closure urged

By DJ Yap

THE BLUE-RIBBON COMMITTEE OF THE Quezon City Council has recommended the temporary closure of the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) on Aurora Boulevard to give way to a new investigation into the alleged excavations undertaken in search of the fabled Yamashita treasure at the school grounds..

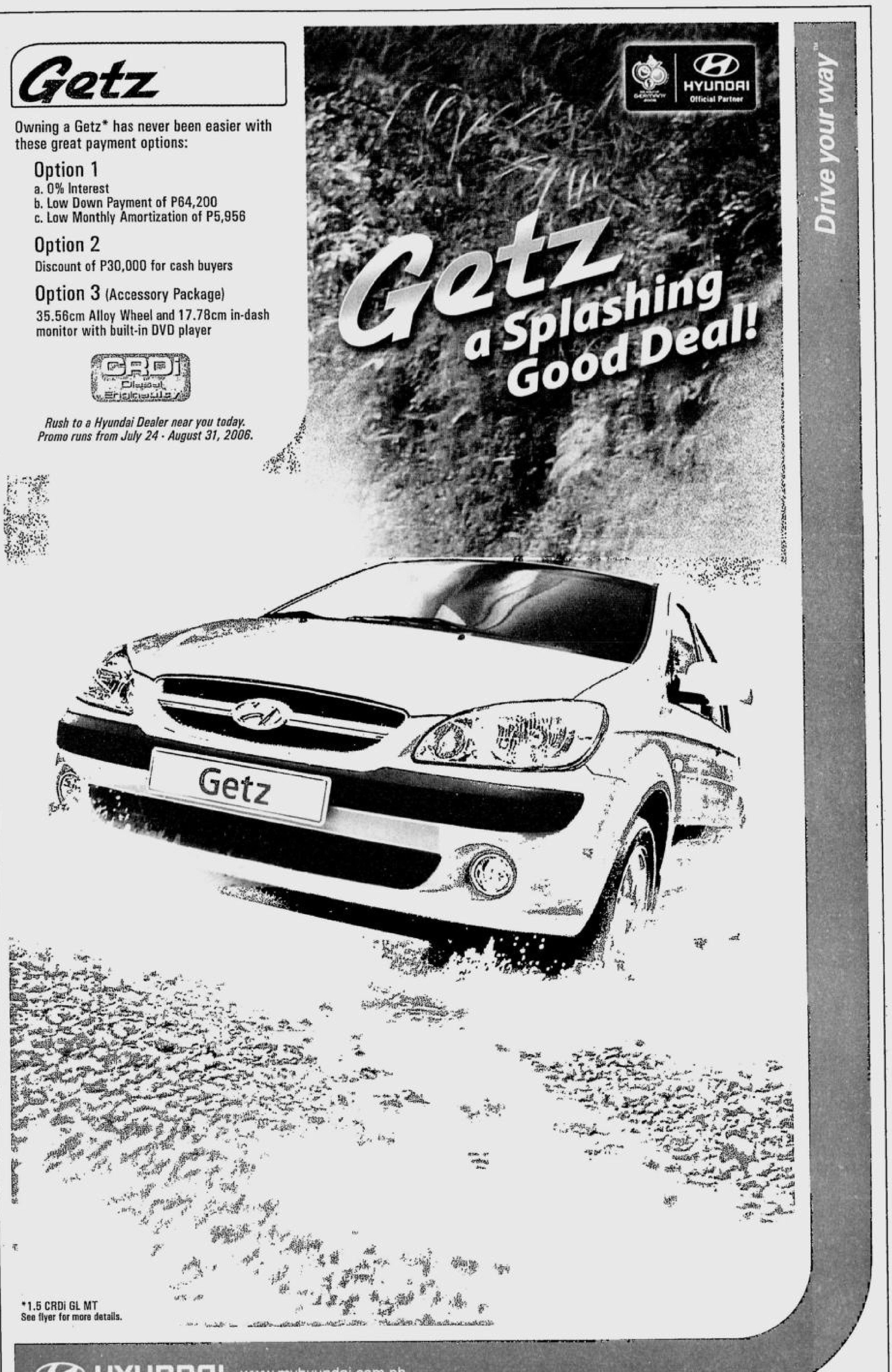
After ending its two-month investigation, the committee asked the Commission on Higher Education to consider the possibility of temporarily closing down the school to allow a closer inspection of the alleged excavation sites. The body chaired by Councilor Dante de Guzman said the sites should be dug up to "clear all matters of doubt."

The new probe, it added, should be conducted by an independent contractor as it asked previous inspectors from the city engineering department to inhibit themselves from the case.

In a resolution, the committee said it was "inclined to believe" that the alleged diggings were true despite findings of the city engineering department which had said there were no visible signs of excavations inside the campus. Previous ocular inspections by representatives of the city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had yielded negative results.

But De Guzman noted that the inspections had not been thorough since the purported openings to the excavations had been cemented. The INQUIRER repeatedly tried to reach PSBA officials for comment but calls were not immediately returned. A staff member at the dean's office said only Dean Raul Addatu was authorized to speak about the matter, but he was not available.

Complainants led by Antonio Magtalas had called the attention of the city government to the alleged diggings.



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Manila holds world record for breastfeeding moms

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE CITY OF MANILA NOW holds the world record for the most number of mothers who simultaneously breastfed their babies in public.

Children for Breastfeeding Inc. founding chair Elvira Henares-Esguerra yesterday said the Guinness Book of World Records has issued a certificate recognizing the city government's effort in gathering a record-breaking 3,541 mothers who simultaneously nursed their babies at the San Andres Sports Complex and Cultural Center in Malate last May.

Esguerra, whose group helped organize the event, said they received the certification last July 14.

"The public display of breastfeeding showed the world that we are finally getting people to want to do it," she emphasized.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as many as 16,000 Filipino children below age five die every year simply because they are not breastfed.

Infants reared on milk formula are "7 to 25 times" more likely to die of diarrhea than a baby who was reared on breast milk, according to WHO statistics.

Lactation consultants have recommended exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a baby's life, then continued breastfeeding with complementary feeding for two years and beyond.

Esguerra, a lactation consultant, was at the launching yesterday of the the new breastfeeding station at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. The first station was opened a few months ago at SM Megamall.

The breastfeeding station boasts of a sofa, a washbasin, a refrigerator and a changing station.

"It is just a small room, which could accommodate three mothers and their babies, but its existence is a statement in itself: That women can breastfeed anywhere," Esguerra said.

BREASTFEEDING is now a popular practice even among urban mothers like this quintet from Manila who nurse their newborn babies at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital's Neonatal ward. EDWIN BACASMAS

MetroBriefs

P2-M property lost in Las Piñas fire

A BIG FIRE destroyed four commercial establishments in Las Piñas City, a few hours after they closed down on Wednesday night. At least P2 million worth of property was razed during the fire that started shortly before 9 p.m. at the OSK Auto Supply on Alabang-Zapote Road in Barangay Talon Uno, said city fire marshal Senior Insp. Robert Pacis. The auto shop was owned by Celsa Hizole. Witnesses said they heard an explosion before the auto shop's ceiling caught fire. The blaze might have been caused by an electrical problem, Pacis said yesterday. "The fire spread quickly to other establishments, including a computer shop and a hardware store, because the walls that separated them were only made of wood," he told the INQUIRER. The fire was put out after more than two hours. No one was reported hurt in the incident.

Jocelyn R. Uy

BI Intramuros office open on Saturday

THE BUREAU of Immigration main office in Intramuros, Manila will be open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in anticipation of a surge in the number of registrants for the alien certificate of registration identity (ACR ID) card. Immigration Commissioner Alipio F. Fernandez Jr. said the deadline for registration is on Aug. 14. Applicants' documentary requirements will be evaluated and recommended for approval on the spot by registration officers. This has reduced the processing time for the issuance of ID cards for applicants who register through the One-Stop Action Center. Fernandez said an applicant who is leaving the country can get his ID card on the same day provided that a xerox copy of the plane ticket is attached to the application.

Police won't run after gynecologist in diaper case

By DJ Yap

POLICE WILL NO LONGER PURSUE the case against a gynecologist who allegedly caused a newborn baby girl to suffocate to death after she put an adult diaper on the infant's mother before she was brought to the delivery room.

Investigators said it would be pointless to press criminal charges against Dr. Glody Tolentino, a consultant at Sta. Teresita General Hospital in Quezon City, since the alleged victim herself was apparently unwilling to do so. "We would have filed the charges on our own, if the mother (Charlotte Hernandez) had given us a statement. As it is, we don't have enough evidence to build a case," said investigator PO2 Jaime Jimena.

He said the case would likely be dismissed even if they were to file it because they did not have other witnesses or evidence other than the initial interview with Hernandez's relatives, which was the basis of the police blotter report.

The family had told the police that they would go to Camp Karingal on Saturday to give a statement, but they later cancelled the trip because of an interview appointment with a television news crew, Jimena said.

Since then, the police had no contact with the family, he added.

PO3 Romeo Tandas, in an earlier interview, said Hernandez and her mother, Maiden Dumlao, seemed cheerful when they told police about their television interview. "It seems the family had no intention of filing charges, considering the doctor is their friend," he said.

The INQUIRER reached Tolentino on her mobile phone last week, but she declined to comment, saying she had been advised by her lawyer not to talk about the case.

Hernandez was admitted to the hospital on July 24 with Tolentino, a family friend, attending to her.

The doctor then placed an adult diaper on the mother who later gave birth with the disposable undergarment still on.

Police look into colleagues' link in death of TV cameraman

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ROGUE POLICE OFFICERS COULD be involved in the spate of murder and robbery cases in Caloocan City, including the murder of a television cameraman.

Four policemen and several civilians are now being questioned by the police for their alleged involvement in the gang believed to be behind the criminal activities, according to a source privy to the investigation.

The group allegedly had a hand in the killing of RPN-9 cameraman Ralph Nuñez last week, according to a source who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to media.

Based on the crime index distribution of police stations in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area, 41 robberies took place in Caloocan in the month of June alone.

"We stumbled into the alleged involvement of some police officers in the course of the investigation into the killing of Nuñez," the source explained.

He added that they started the investigation after a member of the group came forward, saying the other members had tried to kill him because he wanted to leave the gang.

"He decided to cooperate in the investigation because he felt he was given a second chance to straighten out his life," the source said.

Northern Police District director, Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, confirmed the involvement of some policemen but refused to give details, saying it could jeopardize the ongoing probe.

"We have good leads on the Nuñez case and the arrest of the gunman is now inevitable," Bataoil added.

The police official said the affidavit executed by the group member could be used as part of the evidence against those involved in the killing.

Nuñez was shot dead by two men in front his house in Camarin, Caloocan City last week.

The gang member had said in his affidavit that killing the cameraman was not part of the plan since they only wanted to rob him, but Nuñez resisted.

The gang's victims, including Nuñez, were placed under surveillance by the group two weeks before the actual robberies, he added.

"We were just given a picture and pertinent details about the target like home or business addresses, and the order to proceed," the gang member said.

The gang's loot was usually stashed in the police officers' vehicles. "No one would ever think of searching a police car," the gang member added.

MURDER and ROBBERY

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Did you know

NINE out of 10 residents in Metro Manila are Roman Catholics. Based on the latest data, 89.10 percent of the 9.93 million people in the National Capital Region (around 8.85 million persons) are Roman Catholics. Members of the Iglesia ni Cristo account for 2.89 percent of the population (287,000 persons), followed by Evangelicals (1.74 percent or around 173,000 individuals).

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday, August 4, 2006
iDOL ABC
Ang Pinakamagandang Ponget sa Balat ng Lupa!
Betty la más fea
Gabi-gabi
ABC
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Dream Music Videos	PBA				Sentro						Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate! Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN													E Buzz						
Cartoon Network	Pixie And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Bayad O Makasalanan				Balat Kay Tagal Ng Sandali				Sanib				Kung Kailangan Mo Ako				Kapalit	
Cinemax		Madison (2:50 PM)																	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel	Connect	The Greatest Ever		More Than Human		How Do They Do It		Beyond Tomorrow		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It		The Xtasters		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						X Games 11 Classic: Slammed, Stomped	Major League Baseball Thursday						Motorsport Asia	Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thursday				
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life in Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas in Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15 PM)						Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Missing I		Wire In The Blood					Wire In The Blood
HBO		Ike: Countdown To D-Day			The Enemy Within			New York Minute			Thunderbirds			Rome Ep 01: The Stolen Eagle		Rome Ep 02: How Titus Pullo Brought Down The Republic	Rome Ep 03: An Owl In A Thornbush (10:40 PM)		In Good Company (11:25 PM)
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ [illegible]		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ [illegible]	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	American Dad	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own		MTV Hits					Get Spotted		MTV Diyes		Boiling Points	My Own				
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Volcano		The Real Serengeti: Stampede of the Megaherd		Top 5 - Volcano		WOW: Stampede of the Megaherd		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Hurricane			
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports [illegible]			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Pagbubuyag		News Beat (Live)		Openline (Live)	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	DWTV Journal News	Convergence
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron/ My Life As A Teenage Robot	Nick Kicks/ All Grown Up		Danny Phantom	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous/ Kid's Choice Awards	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Suicide Commandos				May Sugat Ang Kahapon				Palpak-ipak Pupak-pak Fireworks				Fight Night 8				Ilod Sa Laman
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Dano	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]		Shepherd's Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		2006 Jones Cup				Philippine Open '06 MD Finals		Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's Italy		USAB World Tour: USA vs. Puerto Rico				World Pool 2006 Masters		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Philippine Open '06 MD Finals	
Sports Plus		Golf Today	Inside the PGA	World's Greatest Auto Show Tokyo		Pennsylvania 500 Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision	BM Scuba Diving	BD Acapulco	Wild Side: Emerald Coast	Evian Masters Day 1			
Star Movies		Renaissance Man (3:05 PM)		Girl, Interrupted (5:15 PM)					Urban Legend (7:20 PM)			The Grudge			The Sixth Sense (10:35 PM)				
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Rockstar: Supernova		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Teen Titans		The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			[illegible] (9:10 PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Oprah		Reality World

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Manila holds world record for breastfeeding moms

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE CITY OF MANILA NOW holds the world record for the most number of mothers who simultaneously breastfed their babies in public.

Children for Breastfeeding Inc. founding chair Elvira Henares-Esguerra yesterday said the Guinness Book of World Records has issued a certificate recognizing the city government's effort in gathering a record-breaking 3,541 mothers who simultaneously nursed their babies at the San Andres Sports Complex and Cultural Center in Malate last May.

Esguerra, whose group helped organize the event, said they received the certification last July 14.

"The public display of breastfeeding showed the world that we are finally getting people to want to do it," she emphasized.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as many as 16,000 Filipino children below age five die every year simply because they are not breastfed.

Infants reared on milk formula are "7 to 25 times" more likely to die of diarrhea than a baby who was reared on breast milk, according to WHO statistics.

Lactation consultants have recommended exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a baby's life, then continued breastfeeding with complementary feeding for two years and beyond.

Esguerra, a lactation consultant, was at the launching yesterday of the the new breastfeeding station at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. The first station was opened a few months ago at SM Megamall.

The breastfeeding station boasts of a sofa, a washbasin, a refrigerator and a changing station.

"It is just a small room, which could accommodate three mothers and their babies, but its existence is a statement in itself: That women can breastfeed anywhere," Esguerra said.

BREASTFEEDING is now a popular practice even among urban mothers like this quintet from Manila who nurse their newborn babies at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital's Neonatal ward. EDWIN BACASMAS

METROBRIEFS

P2-M property lost in Las Piñas fire

A BIG FIRE destroyed four commercial establishments in Las Piñas City, a few hours after they closed down on Wednesday night. At least P2 million worth of property was razed during the fire that started shortly before 9 p.m. at the OSK Auto Supply on Alabang-Zapote Road in Barangay Talon Uno, said city fire marshal Senior Insp. Robert Pacis. The auto shop was owned by Celsa Hizole. Witnesses said they heard an explosion before the auto shop's ceiling caught fire. The blaze might have been caused by an electrical problem, Pacis said yesterday. "The fire spread quickly to other establishments, including a computer shop and a hardware store, because the walls that separated them were only made of wood," he told the INQUIRER. The fire was put out after more than two hours. No one was reported hurt in the incident.

Jocelyn R. Uy

BI Intramuros office open on Saturday

THE BUREAU of Immigration main office in Intramuros, Manila will be open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in anticipation of a surge in the number of registrants for the alien certificate of registration identity (ACR ID) card. Immigration Commissioner Alipio F. Fernandez Jr. said the deadline for registration is on Aug. 14. Applicants' documentary requirements will be evaluated and recommended for approval on the spot by registration officers. This has reduced the processing time for the issuance of ID cards for applicants who register through the One-Stop Action Center. Fernandez said an applicant who is leaving the country can get his ID card on the same day provided that a xerox copy of the plane ticket is attached to the application.

Police won't run after gynecologist in diaper case

By DJ Yap

POLICE WILL NO LONGER PURSUE the case against a gynecologist who allegedly caused a newborn baby girl to suffocate to death after she put an adult diaper on the infant's mother before she was brought to the delivery room.

Investigators said it would be pointless to press criminal charges against Dr. Glody Tolentino, a consultant at Sta. Teresita General Hospital in Quezon City, since the alleged victim herself was apparently unwilling to do so. "We would have filed the charges on our own, if the mother (Charlotte Hernandez) had given us a statement. As it is, we don't have enough evidence to build a case," said investigator PO2 Jaime Jimena.

He said the case would likely be dismissed even if they were to file it because they did not have other witnesses or evidence other than the initial interview with Hernandez's relatives, which was the basis of the police blotter report.

The family had told the police that they would go to Camp Karingal on Saturday to give a statement, but they later cancelled the trip because of an interview appointment with a television news crew, Jimena said.

Since then, the police had no contact with the family, he added.

PO3 Romeo Tandas, in an earlier interview, said Hernandez and her mother, Maiden Dumlao, seemed cheerful when they told police about their television interview. "It seems the family had no intention of filing charges, considering the doctor is their friend," he said.

The INQUIRER reached Tolentino on her mobile phone last week, but she declined to comment, saying she had been advised by her lawyer not to talk about the case.

Hernandez was admitted to the hospital on July 24 with Tolentino, a family friend, attending to her.

The doctor then placed an adult diaper on the mother who later gave birth with the disposable undergarment still on.

Police look into colleagues' link in death of TV cameraman

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MURDER and ROBBERY

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

ROGUE POLICE OFFICERS COULD be involved in the spate of murder and robbery cases in Caloocan City, including the murder of a television cameraman.

Four policemen and several civilians are now being questioned by the police for their alleged involvement in the gang believed to be behind the criminal activities, according to a source privy to the investigation.

The group allegedly had a hand in the killing of RPN-9 cameraman Ralph Nuñez last week, according to a source who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to media.

Based on the crime index distribution of police stations in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area, 41 robberies took place in Caloocan in the month of June alone.

"We stumbled into the alleged involvement of some police officers in the course of the investigation into the killing of Nuñez," the source explained.

He added that they started the investigation after a member of the group came forward, saying the other members had tried to kill him because he wanted to leave the gang.

"He decided to cooperate in the investigation because he felt he was given a second chance to straighten out his life," the source said.

Northern Police District director, Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, confirmed the involvement of some policemen but refused to give details, saying it could jeopardize the ongoing probe.

"We have good leads on the Nuñez case and the arrest of the gunman is now inevitable," Bataoil added.

The police official said the affidavit executed by the group member could be used as part of the evidence against those involved in the killing.

Nuñez was shot dead by two men in front his house in Camarin, Caloocan City last week.

The gang member had said in his affidavit that killing the cameraman was not part of the plan since they only wanted to rob him, but Nuñez resisted.

The gang's victims, including Nuñez, were placed under surveillance by the group two weeks before the actual robberies, he added.

"We were just given a picture and pertinent details about the target like home or business addresses, and the order to proceed," the gang member said.

The gang's loot was usually stashed in the police officers' vehicles. "No one would ever think of searching a police car," the gang member added.

DID YOU KNOW

NINE out of 10 residents in Metro Manila are Roman Catholics. Based on the latest data, 89.10 percent of the 9.93 million people in the National Capital Region (around 8.85 million persons) are Roman Catholics. Members of the Iglesia ni Cristo account for 2.89 percent of the population (287,000 persons), followed by Evangelicals (1.74 percent or around 173,000 individuals).

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Friday, August 4, 2006

iDoL ABC
Ang Pinakamagandang Panget sa Balot ng Luro!
Betty la más fea
gabi-gabi simula Aug. 14
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Dream Music Videos	PBA				Sentro						Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate! Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN													E Buzz						
Cartoon Network	Pele And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dex	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Banal O Makasalanan				Bakit Kay Tagal Ng Sandali				Sanib				Kung Kailangan Mo Ako				Kapalit	
Cinemax		Madman (2:50PM)																	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel	Connect	The Greatest Ever		More Than Human		How Do They Do It		Beyond Tomorrow		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It		The Xtesters		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						X Games 11 Classic - Slammed Stomped	Major League Baseball Thursday						Motorsport Asia	Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thursday				
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life in Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas [illegible] In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang [illegible] (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15PM)						Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Missing I		Wire In The Blood					Wire In The Blood
HBO		Ike Countdown To D-Day			The Enemy Within			New York Minute			Thunderbirds			Rome Ep 01: The Stolen Eagle		Rome Ep 02: How Titus Pullo Brought Down The Republic	Rome Ep 03: An Owl In A Thornbush (10:40PM)		In Good Company (11:25PM)
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	American Dad	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own		MTV Hits					Get Spotted		MTV Divas		Boiling Points	My Own				
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Volcano		The Real Serengeti: Stampede of the Megaherd		Top 5 - Volcano		WOW! Stampede of the Megaherd		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Hurricane			
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports [illegible]			Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Aly Landa & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Pagbubuyag		News Beat (Live)		Openline (Live)	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	DWTV Journal News	Convergence
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron/ My Life As A Teenage Robot	Nick Kicks/ All Grown Up		Danny Phantom	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous/ Kid's Choice Awards	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Suicide Commandos				May Sugat Ang Kahapon				[illegible] Fireworks				Fight Night 8				Uod Sa Laman
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Damo	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
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SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sheperds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		2006 Jones Cup				Philippine Open '06: MD Finals		Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's Italy		USAB World Tour: USA vs. Puerto Rico				World Pool 2006 Masters		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Philippine Open '06: MD Finals	
Sports Plus		Golf Today	Inside the PGA	World's Greatest Auto Show Tokyo		Pennsylvania 500 Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision	RM Scuba Diving	BD Acapulco	Wild Side: Emerald Coast	Evian Masters Day 1			
Star Movies		Renaissance Man (3:05 PM)		Girl Interrupted (5:15 PM)					Urban Legend (7:20 PM)			The Grudge			The Sixth Sense (10:35PM)				
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Rockstar: Supernova		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Teen Titans		The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			Nowpro (9:10 PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Oprah		Reality World

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Heat wave continues to bake eastern half of US

BOSTON—RESIDENTS FROM Maine to Georgia and parts of the Midwest broiled under excessive heat on Wednesday that strained power grids, taxed patience and, in some cases, proved fatal.

A spokesperson for the Cook County medical examiner's office said heat had been a factor in the deaths of six men in Chicago since Sunday. Authorities in Fleming County, Ky., suspect heat played a role in the death of an 18-month-old boy who was found in a van, but officials said they would not know until an autopsy on Thursday.

ISO New England, which operates the power grid in the six New England states, and PJM Interconnection, which handles the grid in 11 Midwestern and Middle Atlantic states, both set records for kilowatt use on Wednesday. Both called for voluntary conservation and ordered certain customers to reduce use.

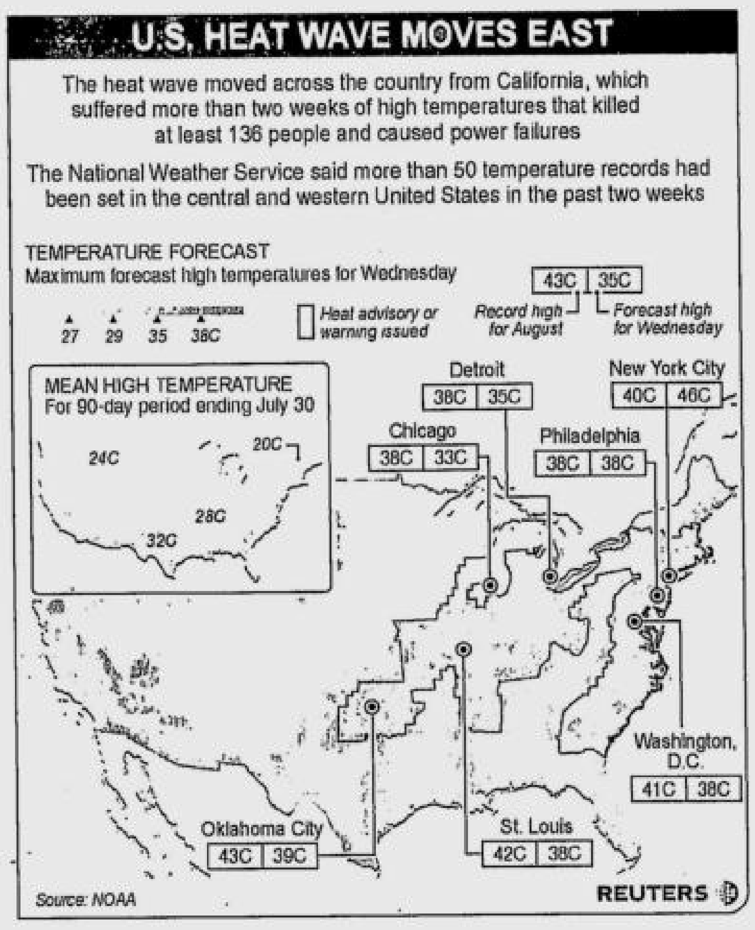
As temperatures up and down the Eastern Seaboard and Midwest hit or neared 100 degrees, officials throughout the East urged residents to conserve electricity, drink plenty of fluids, check on the elderly and stay out of the heat as much as possible.

Temperatures reached 98 degrees here, according to the National Weather Service. Across the country, Providence, R.I.; Hartford, Conn.; Westfield, Mass.; and St. Louis all reached 100 degrees.

Washington baked at 98 degrees and Philadelphia hit 97, as did Columbia, S.C., and Savannah, Ga. The heat is not expected to break until at least Thursday evening.

"If you draw a line from Portland, Maine, to Rutland, Vt., below that line there's just miserable weather," said Andy Woodcock, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Washington office. "It basically goes from Rutland down to Cuba. Really, the whole East Coast is in an excessive heat warning. This is probably the most widespread as far as the heat goes that I've ever seen."

New York Times


U.S. HEAT WAVE MOVES EAST
The heat wave moved across the country from California, which suffered more than two weeks of high temperatures that killed at least 136 people and caused power failures
The National Weather Service said more than 50 temperature records had been set in the central and western United States in the past two weeks
TEMPERATURE FORECAST
Maximum forecast high temperatures for Wednesday
27
29
35
38C
Heat advisory or warning issued
43C | 35C
Record high for August
Forecast high for Wednesday
MEAN HIGH TEMPERATURE
For 90-day period ending July 30
24C
20C
28C
32C
Detroit 38C | 35C
New York City 40C | 46C
Chicago 38C | 33C
Philadelphia 38C | 38C
Washington, D.C. 41C | 38C
Oklahoma City 43C | 39C
St. Louis 42C | 38C
Source: NOAA
REUTERS

HECTOR Colon, right, pushes Raymond Marero into a fire hydrant's blast in north Philadelphia as the region experienced a continuing heat wave Aug. 2. AP

Israel near goal in Lebanon, says Olmert

MILAN—ISRAEL IS "VERY CLOSE" to its goal against Hezbollah in Lebanon and the United Nations will likely vote on a truce next week, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Thursday.

Olmert told Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice did not expect a truce to end fighting in Lebanon in the next few days.

"It's more likely that there will be a vote in the United Nations next week," he was quoted as saying.

"The process is long," he said. "From our standpoint, we will cooperate with any reasonable proposal." Asked what Israel's objectives were, Olmert said the Jewish state should no longer face the threat that existed before fighting broke out after Hezbollah snatched two Israeli soldiers in a raid across the border on July 12.

"The new equation will spell out a completely different balance in the area," he said. "Hezbollah will think twice, three times, many times before attacking us, and I think we are very close to that goal." Olmert reiterated that Israel will keep fighting Hezbollah until a strong international force is in south Lebanon. Any such force should be deployed immediately after the start of a ceasefire, he said.

"Let's say if we stop firing at midnight, they should be deployed on the ground and replace us by two o'clock in the morning," Olmert said.

He called the UN forces in south Lebanon inefficient, and said any international force should be able to fight and be modelled on Afghanistan's US-led "Enduring Freedom" mission.

Olmert dismissed a suggestion that Hezbollah backers Syria and Iran could help resolve the crisis in Lebanon. European governments have been reaching out to both countries in an attempt to engage them in a solution to the war.

"Iran is trying to obtain nonconventional weapons and its president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, keeps saying that Israel should be wiped from the map. On what basis can there be cooperation with Iran?"

Olmert said Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, whose government has played an active diplomatic role in seeking a ceasefire, had called Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"What was the result? What was Damascus's reaction to his phone call?" Olmert asked. *Reuters*

New Zealand cuts migrant numbers from risky nations

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—New Zealand is rejecting nearly three times as many visa applications from people in nations deemed risky after tightening immigration procedures 18 months ago, a senior official said Thursday.

The new protocol returns control over visa approvals to officials in New Zealand for 23 nations on a "high risk" list after claims that locally hired visa personnel in those countries had been loosely applying the rules to allow entry to unwanted migrants.

The government consistently refuses to identify the nations regarded as "high risk" for migrants.

Immigration Minister David Cunliffe said some migrants already in New Zealand had been deported after their visas were withdrawn as a result of the tougher screening process.

"We've found some, and we've dealt with those," he told National Radio.

The screening group was rejecting 24 percent of current applications from high risk states. The rate was nine percent before the tougher procedures were introduced.

It was impossible to be "100 percent sure" that no risky immigrants were in the country, but the new procedures were as good as anywhere in the world, Cunliffe said.

Asked later Thursday in Parliament how many people had gained access to New Zealand "on fraudulent grounds" and later had their permits revoked, the minister said the material was "sensitive" and he was not prepared to release it.

Cunliffe later told parliament the immigration profiling group was a valuable enhancement to border security and "a core part of our immigration policy."

The group was established in May 2005 to review visa decisions made since May 2003, he noted.

Among those getting close attention are applicants who have specialist skills which could be wrongly used. Cunliffe said that group included such as physicists, whose skills could be used to make weapons of mass destruction. *AP*

Indonesia tests 7 from same village for bird flu

MEDAN, INDONESIA—SEVEN Indonesians from the same village in North Sumatra have been hospitalized and are being tested for bird flu, an official said on Wednesday, raising fears of new cluster cases in the country.

The group comes from Karo district in North Sumatra province where bird flu killed as many as seven people in an extended family in May, triggering fears the H5N1 bird flu virus had mutated into a form that could spread easily between people.

"Whether it is a new cluster or not, that must be scientifically proved," said Runizar Ruesin, head of the bird flu information center at Indonesia's health ministry.

Another official said chickens in the area where they lived had died and tested positive for bird flu. Sick poultry is the usual mode of transmission of the disease, endemic in birds in about two-thirds of the country's provinces.

Indonesia has recorded 42 deaths from the H5N1 bird flu virus, equalling Vietnam, where no one is known to have died of the disease this year.

Worldwide, the disease has killed at least 134 people since it re-emerged in east Asia in 2003.

Reuters

Killing of Iraqi journalist brings media deaths to 100

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—TWO INTERtional media watchdogs have condemned the slaying of a journalist in Iraq, which raised to at least 100 the number of media people killed since the US invasion in March 2003.

"No armed conflict since the Second World War has been so deadly for the press," said Reporters Without Borders, a French press freedom organization, said in a statement received Thursday, and described the high death toll as "appalling."

Adil al-Mansuri, the Baghdad correspondent of the Iranian government-run Al-Alam television station, was shot as he was returning to his home in the west Baghdad district of Al Amiriyah on Monday.

Adil al-Mansuri, an Iraqi who was in his 20s, was driving his car after dropping his wife at her family's home in Amiriyah when he was attacked.

Reporters Without Borders said 100 journalists and media assistants are known to have been killed in Iraq since 2003. It said two are missing and three others are currently held hostage.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists put the number at 75 journalists and 27 media assistants killed, including at least 54 Iraqis.

CPJ said it is also investigating the details surrounding the killing of Riyad Muhammad Ali, a reporter for the local weekly Talafar al-Yawm, on Sunday.

CPJ is seeking to determine whether the slaying was directly related to Ali's work," it said in a statement, also received Thursday.

"We mourn the death of our colleagues Adel Naji al-Mansouri and Riyad Muhammad Ali, both senselessly murdered," CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon said.

"As sectarian violence spirals, journalists of all backgrounds appear to be targeted, adding to the extraordinary danger facing the press in Iraq."

Al-Mansuri's death—in a Sunni-majority neighborhood—was apparently linked to the Shiite-Sunni sectarian violence sweeping Iraq, particularly the capital.

Al-Alam, an Arabic language channel widely watched in Iraq, is run by the government of Iran, an overwhelmingly Shiite country. Iraq also is a Shiite majority country but were long suppressed by the Sunni-dominated government of Saddam Hussein.

Al-Mansuri, a Shiite, had moved his wife and daughter from Baghdad after receiving threats because of his sect, according to his colleagues. The wife was visiting from the Shiite-dominated city of Karbala the day of the attack.

It was the first such attack against a staffer of Al-Alam.

"The Iraqi government must do everything possible to identify and punish those responsible for these atrocities," Reporters Without Borders said.

"It is unacceptable that nothing has yet been done to shed light on these increasingly commonplace murders and that no measures have been taken to protect journalists in Iraq," it added. *AP*

Castro: A life of many near-death experiences

HAVANA—WHEN FIDEL CASTRO was 10, he nearly died of appendicitis. Since then, he has survived military assaults and even plots to poison his cigars and milkshakes. Now, two weeks shy of his 80th birthday, surgery has sidelined the leader of Cuba's revolution.

After a life filled with near-death experiences, the intestinal bleeding that forced Castro to hand over power and undergo "a complicated surgical operation" may be one of the closest calls yet for the true survivor.

A statement attributed to Castro on Tuesday said he was in good spirits but made clear his condition was touch and go. "I cannot make up positive news," he was quoted as saying.

The current crisis follows a lifetime of close shaves.

In April 1948, Castro joined throngs in Bogota, Colombia, to protest creation of the Organization of American States. The rioting spun out of control, and the 21-year-old Castro took refuge in the Cuban Embassy as the army began hunting down leftists.

During his university days in gangster-ridden Havana, Castro's political activities against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista were risky enough that he began carrying a gun.

On July 26, 1953, Castro launched what many would later call a suicidal attack on the Moncada military barracks in Cuba's eastern city of Santiago.

Though it became the symbolic start of the Cuban revolution, the assault failed miserably. After a series of surprises and miscalculations, Castro called off the mission—and was almost left to fend for himself, according to Santiago historian Manuel Pevida.

CASTRO in 1985. AP

"All of a sudden he was all alone, just standing there in the street in front of the barracks," said Pevida, also a Communist Party official. "Everyone in his group had left, but those in the final car realized he wasn't with them and turned back and picked him up."

In all, 61 comrades were killed in the assault or the ensuing crackdown.

Good luck seemed to consistently accompany the young Castro.

A few days after the Moncada assault, a lieutenant named Pedro Sarria, sent to capture the attackers, found Castro asleep on the floor of a peasant hut in the hills above Santiago.

The lieutenant recognized Castro, but kept his identity from patrols that might have killed him. And instead of delivering him to the Moncada barracks, where the army was torturing and killing his comrades, Sarria put Castro in a city jail where the presence of journalists made it tricky for authorities to make the rebel leader "disappear."

"Sarria saved his life," said Modesta Coya Garcia, a guide at the farmhouse outside Santiago where Castro gathered his men before the Moncada attack.

Despite early brushes with death, Castro continued to take risks.

After an amnesty freed him from prison, he formed a rebel army in Mexico, then returned to Cuba on a crowded yacht that nearly sank in a storm.

The vessel, named Granma, landed in the wrong spot, and of 82 rebels aboard, only 12 survived the landing and initial skirmishes with Batista's forces in December 1956. In battles in the eastern mountains of the Sierra Maestra, Castro came close to capture several times.

Castro's rebel army ousted Batista on Jan. 1, 1959. Once in power, Castro's luck continued—to the chagrin of US officials furious with Cuba's move toward communism.

The CIA began training Cuban exiles for the Bay of Pigs invasion and plotting Castro's assassination. Castro was on the battlefield during the 1961 invasion, in which more than 150 Cuban defenders died, but was unhurt.

Within 72 hours Cuba defeated the invaders, capturing more than 1,000 of them in what became a colossal embarrassment for the United States.

Later plans to assassinate Castro were dramatic, original—and ultimately unsuccessful. More than 30 plots included poisoning his cigars, recruiting a former young German lover and hiding a gun in a TV camera.

One plot took place in the cafeteria of the Habana Libre hotel, where Castro often went for milkshakes in the mid-1960s, according to the book "Fidel: A Critical Portrait."

In the book, Tad Szulc quotes former Cuban Interior Minister Ramiro Valdes as saying the CIA hired a young hotel worker to slip a poison pill into Castro's milkshake. The young man hid the pill in the refrigerator and waited for Castro to show up.

"The capsule was frozen and it broke, and the man couldn't slip it into the milkshake. It seems he was very nervous," Szulc quoted Valdes as saying.

Good luck seems to run in the family: Castro's younger brother Raul also survived the Moncada assault, the near-sinking of the Granma and guerrilla battles in the Sierra Maestra.

Yet detractors say the 75-year-old Raul lacks the strength and charisma that Fidel has used to hold together a communist Cuba.

And as he takes command of the island, they wonder: Could he possibly be as much of a political survivor as his brother? *AP*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel launches new air strikes on Beirut

BOURJ AL-MULOUK, LEBANON—ISRAELI WAR PLANES RE-newed strikes against Beirut's southern suburbs early Thursday and an Israeli missile killed three in the border village of Taibeh after the biggest and deepest rocket attacks yet from Hezbollah.

Three weeks into the conflict, some 8,000 Israeli troops were in south Lebanon locked in fighting from village to village, and the battle looked likely to be bitter and long.

Diplomatic efforts faltered again, with the United Nations putting off a meeting of nations that could contribute to a stabilization force, saying it was pointless before there was a plan for peace.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi condemned the Security Council for not having the "moral courage to condemn Israel" as he opened an emergency session of the 56-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference on Thursday.

"The United Nations has not been able to do much except to try organizing the distribution of humanitarian aid," Abdullah said, adding that "no end seems in sight" to the conflict.

Lebanese security officials said a missile crashed into the two-story house of Hani Abdo Marmar at 9:10 a.m., killing him instantly along with his wife and daughter.

More than an hour after the strike, the Lebanese Red Cross was unable to reach Taibeh to pull out the bodies, because of fierce fighting in the village, witnesses said.

Hezbollah's Al-Manar television reported guerrillas clashed with Israeli troops in the village, less than 5 km from the border, destroying a tank and two bulldozers and injuring its crew members.

The Israeli army said a tank had been lightly hit in clashes but that there were no casualties or serious damage.

In the southern Lebanese town of Nabatiyeh, fighter jets struck an ambulance working for a local Muslim group, Lebanese security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk with the press.

In the first air raids on the Lebanese capital in almost a week, witnesses said at least four missiles hit the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh, a Shiite Muslim sector that has been repeatedly shelled by Israel since fighting began three weeks ago.

Lebanese television said the attacks targeted several buildings in a Hezbollah compound of Dahieh's al-Ruweis neighborhood. The compound, which includes a center for religious teaching, has been attacked in earlier raids and sustained seizable damage.

Israeli warplanes also fired more than a dozen missiles at roads and suspected guerrilla hideouts in the southeastern town of Rashaya in morning attacks, Lebanese security officials said. They said the attacks were part of Israel's strategy to destroy Lebanese infrastructure so that people would not travel from one village to the other.

Other strikes hit targets near Lebanon's northern border with Syria overnight, Lebanese radio said. This was the second attack in the area in 24 hours, and a bridge linking the zone to the northern port of Tripoli was destroyed there Wednesday.

Fierce ground fighting raged around the south Lebanon village of Ayt a-Shab where an Israeli soldier was killed and four wounded, the military said.

The new strikes came after Hezbollah scored its deepest hits on Israel yet with missiles landing in the West Bank and Beit Shean, about 42 miles (70 kilometers) into the country.

An Israeli-American man was killed as he fled for home by bicycle near a northern town, and another 21 were injured elsewhere across Israel as Hezbollah fired a record 210 rockets into the country on Wednesday.

Across northern Israel, forests and fields lay scorched from rocket fire. Hopes for a cease-fire dimmed despite a plea Wednesday from Pope Benedict XVI for the international community to find a quick solution. *AP*

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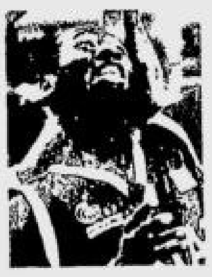

WHAT'S INSIDE

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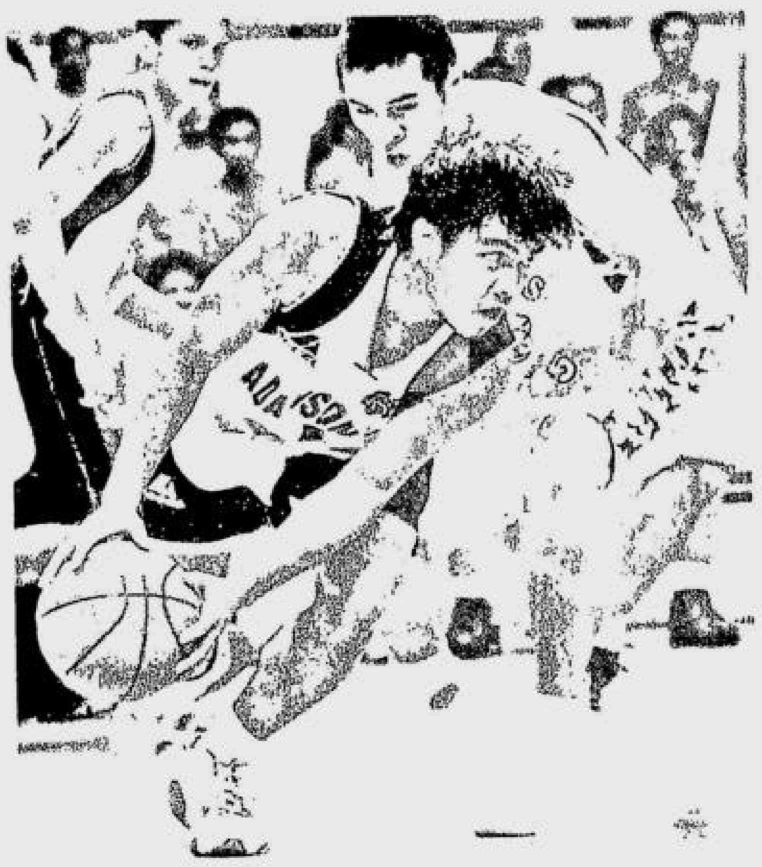
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

- **Germany's Steffen rips 100-m freestyle record** /A25



ADAMSON'S Marvin Poloyapoy puts UST's Andre Marquez (5) out of step with a nifty maneuver in yesterday's game. ERIK ARAZAS

Falcons thrash Tigers; Maroons zap Bulldogs

By Jasmine W. Payo

RANGED AGAINST AN OPPONENT missing key stars, the Adamson Falcons wasted no time seizing the huge break.

Main man Ken Bono pumped in 19 points and collared 14 rebounds to lead the Falcons to a 74-62 triumph over the Santo Tomas Tigers and claim a share of second place in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"This is a rare opportunity for us and we hope to sustain it," said coach Leo Austria after the Falcons joined the University of the East at 3-2, behind the unbeaten Ateneo Blue Eagles.

The Tigers clearly missed league top scorer Jojo Duncil (20.8 points per game), who served a one-game suspension for headbutting NU's Dave Catamora.

Compounding the Tigers' unfortunate situation was the absence of starting point guard Japs Cuan, who was sidelined due to fever.

It was UST's lowest point production after averaging 89.5 points in the last four games playing without main man, Jemal Vizcarra, who was injured late in the Tigers' first game of the season.

Earlier, the University of the Philippines Maroons halted their three-game slide with a 95-86 victory over the National Bulldogs.

In junior play, the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws drubbed the Adamson Baby Falcons, 81-55, to end their first-round stint with a second-best 5-1 card.

The UP Junior Maroons routed the UE Pages, 98-79, for a 3-3 record behind the Baby Falcons' 4-2 slate.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs Ateneo (Jrs)
4 p.m.—Adamson vs Far Eastern (Srs)

The senior scores:

Third Game

UP 95—De Asis 18, Co 13, David 13, Cruz 13, Reyes 10, Buyco 10, Serios 8, Epres 5, Braganza 2, Sorongon 2, Maniego 1, Sison 0, Cacha 0.

NU 86—Garcia 15, Asoro 15, Fernandez 14, Lingao-Lingao 12, Jahnke 11, Catamora 11, Malcontento 6, Malagueno 1, Flor 1, Salamat 0, Lou 0, Cooper 0, Salvado 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 16-25, 47-35, 70-62, 95-86

Fourth Game

ADAMSON 74—Bono 19, Cabahug 17, Canuday 13, Hugnatan 10, Orera 5, Poloyapoy 4, Pacheco 3, Gonzalgo 3, Santos 0, Gorospe 0, Basilio 0, Agustin 0.

UST 62—Ababou 19, Cruz 11, Evangelista 10, Espiritu 6, Canlas 6, Taylor 5, Allera 3, Cortez 2, Gile 0, Marquez 0, Dizon 0.

Quarters: 19-21, 38-28, 56-45, 74-62

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PAZ: Denied twice ROMY HOMILLADA

Archery body defends decision junking Paz

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SHE MISSED THE QUALIFYING EVENT due to a recent injury but when Amaya Paz showed up at the Asian Grand Prix in Kuala Lumpur recently, the National Archery Association of the Philippines was only too glad to take her in again.

And it was a sound decision, Naap said, as the country's top archer in last year's Southeast Asian Games delivered three individual golds and helped her teammates secure another in the team Olympic round.

Paz spent the monetary incentives she received for winning two SEAG golds to go to Malaysia.

The Naap defended yesterday its decision not to include Paz, its top-ranked player, for government funding during the tournament.

Naap secretary general Ligaya Manalang told the INQUIRER that Paz could not be accommodated over those who showed up and qualified for the National selection last June.

"It would be unfair to those who competed in the National Open, which was the basis for the selection," said Manalang.

She added that Naap president Leonora Brawner is preparing a letter to answer the reports that came out in the newspapers.

"She (Brawner) will tell you that we only complied with the criteria set by the association," said Manalang. "We pushed through with the trip despite our limited budget."

She did not explain, however, why despite the rejection Paz was allowed to compete when she went to Kuala Lumpur on her own.

Paz failed to make the National Open because she dislocated her right elbow after she tripped at home a month before the qualifying tournament.

The world's No. 20 archer also made an appeal but the Naap stood pat on its decision not to submit her name to the Philippine Sports Commission for sponsorship.

Acknowledging her success, the PSC said it would reimburse Paz's expenses in joining the Asian Grand Prix using her own money. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

RP cagers fall to Qataris

Coach Reyes ejected after 2 technicals over disputed calls

DOHA, QATAR — SMC-PILIPINAS jumped the gun on Qatar, but couldn't get over the bum calls and the ejection of head coach Chot Reyes, allowing the hosts to pull off a 77-58 win Wednesday in the Al-Emadi International Basketball Championship here.

The loss disappointed Filipino overseas workers who filled the Al-Gharafa Sports Club Hall to the rafters to watch the Nationals' debut in the four-nation tourney.

The fans nonetheless had a grand time cheering SMC-Pilipinas on and posing for pictures with the players after the game.

Willie Miller took control from the opening tap, mocking the bigger Qataris' defense and presiding over an 11-5 start that had the crowd in a total frenzy.

But Qatar, getting its big men to work inside after Kerby Raymundo picked up his second foul, clawed its way back.

With prospective first round draftees LA Tenorio and Joseph Yeo on the floor, SMC-Pilipinas fell into a maze of errors in consecutive offensives, and Qatar lost no time unleashing a crippling 12-1 run that transformed a 28-28 standoff into a 40-29 bulge at the half.

Aided by calls and non-calls that went their way, the hosts built a 15-point lead at 44-29. But the Filipinos bucked the spotty officiating, cutting the deficit to 37-48 and appeared headed for a run until a Greek referee slapped a technical foul on Reyes.

Reyes stormed to the hardcourt to approach the referee and ask why he was given a technical for simply jumping and walking to the end of the bench. He earned a second technical and a trip to the dugout.

Qatar converted the four free throws awarded for the two fouls and it was all downhill for the Filipinos from there.

"I take full responsibility for what happened," said Reyes. "I shouldn't have done that. *Pero grabe naman talaga. Nakita naman ng mga tao 'yun* (But the calls were really bad and the crowd saw that).

After the game, Reyes went over to the Greek referee to ask why he was given the first technical. An argument ensued, with the referee telling Reyes he can't react and jump because "what are you, an animal?"

To compound the Nationals' woes, the coaster assigned to the team was given to the Qatar squad. The Filipinos later rode with Filipino fans on the way to Central Café where vice consul Jabbar Adiong hosted dinner for them.

FILIPINOS Arvin Santos (left) and Dorian Peña (third from left) control the rebound off Qatar's Omar Abdul Qader. AFP

PBA fines Cabagnot

PBA COMMISSIONER NOLI EALA YESTERDAY fined Sta. Lucia's Alex Cabagnot P10,000 for every game he played in a summer league in the United States.

Cabagnot also faces stiff sanctions from Sta. Lucia Realty if he fails to give a rational explanation for his sudden disappearance after the Philippine Cup.

The PBA had earlier verified reports that Cabagnot played two games for the LA Stars in the US league.

Eala reminded the sophomore guard that under league rules and the Players Uniform Contract, PBA players are prohibited from playing in any basketball game other than PBA-sanctioned games.

The Sta. Lucia management is contemplating on charging Cabagnot with breach of contract or banning him for life.

"Those are the possibilities that the company is considering right now," a Sta. Lucia insider said. *June Navarro*

More trades expected in league's off-season

By June Navarro

THE TRADE THAT CAUSED A FUROR AMONG some members of the Philippine Basketball Association's board of governors recently is certainly not the last in the off-season.

Robert Non, San Miguel Corp.'s chief of basketball operations, said the three-way deal involving Barangay Ginebra, Coca-Cola and Air21 was just the start of several trades expected before the opening of the next season in September.

The Gin Kings acquired Rafi Reavis and Billy Mamaril from Coca-Cola plus the rights to Rudy Hatfield, while the Tigers got Manny Ramos, Ryan Bernardo and Kalani Ferreria on top of two second-round picks this year and a first-rounder next season.

As bridge, the Express landed Ginebra's Aris Dimaunahan, who will serve as backup to starting point guard Wynne Arboleda, and the 6-foot-7 Ervin Sotto, who will be reunited with his St. Francis of Assisi College teammates Yancy and Ranidel De Ocampo.

"That trade is just the start of several trade-offs that could happen in the off-season," said Non. "Dealing away its big-time players doesn't mean Coca-Cola is on the way to disbandment."

With the Gin Kings now filled with big men and Coca-Cola in need of extra ceiling in the paint, Non said both teams will have to engage in a few more deals to enhance their worth.

Most vocal critic

Though the eight-player swap has yet to be approved by the Commissioner's Office, not a few team officials raised a howl over the issue, with Sta. Lucia Realty governor Buddy Encarnado the most vocal among them.

Encarnado said that should the trade push through, the parity among teams and the level of competition would be drastically affected. This, he said, could even spell the demise of the PBA.

But Non waved off Encarnado's protests.

"They heard nothing from San Miguel when other teams traded their marquee players to strengthen their respective rosters," said Non. "Why oppose our move when we did it the right way?"

Non was referring to the three-way trade involving Talk 'N Text, Alaska and Air21 in the last conference that fortified the lineup of the Phone Pals, which got Renren Ritualo and Don Allado.

The Aces, who acquired Willie Miller and John Ferriols, also got the best end of the deal when Shell disbanded last season, Non pointed out.

Meanwhile, Chot Reyes will have able lieutenants Biboy Ravanes, Nash Racela and Aboy Castro in the San Miguel fold while Ginebra's Siot Tanquingcen has now formally slid down as head coach Jong Uichico's assistant for the Gins.

TEJADA: Leaving on Aug. 8 ERIK ARAZAS

US treatment for Tejada approved

By June Navarro

EUGENE TEJADA, ALMOST COMPLETELY paralyzed after the worst mishap in PBA history, is set to continue his recovery in the United States.

The Purefoods Giants wingman has been given the green light by his doctors at the Makati Medical Center to return to the US and resume his treatment there.

Tejada's US-based family had already informed the Purefoods management of their decision to bring their son home early this week.

Tejada will be discharged from Makati Med a day before his scheduled departure for California on Aug. 8

A bad fall after a rebound scramble rendered Tejada immobile while lying face down on the floor during a game against Red Bull in the Philippine Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City on May 14.

He was taken to the hospital after waiting for more than 40 minutes for the arrival of an ambulance. For 82 days he lay on his bed due to a severe spinal injury that left him immobile from the neck down.

According to Robert Non, chief of San Miguel Corp.'s basketball operations, Tejada's hospital bill has reached P4 million, which the food and beverage conglomerate is ready to shoulder.

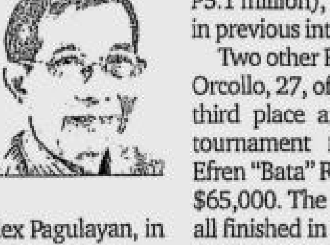
Though his contract had already expired on July 30, Tejada will still enjoy financial assistance from his ballclub until the end of the year.

A source said Tejada's family could bring his case to court and hold the league liable for negligence, citing among other things, the absence of a stand-by ambulance at the playing venue when the "Mother's Day" accident happened.

8-ball champ Hohmann a Filipino at heart

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



FROM THE BLOND HAIR TO THE PROMINENT nose, new world 8-ball champion Thorsten "The Hitman" Hohmann looks every inch a German. But do you know that he is also a Filipino by heart and considers the Philippines a place like home? Hohmann speaks a smattering of Tagalog and loves to eat steamed rice with chicken and pork *adobo*. His German uncle is married to a Filipina.

The 27-year-old Hohmann has visited the country a few times, the last in June 2005, when he took part in the rich Philippine International Open 9-Ball tournament that was organized by cable TV network Solar Sports and sports patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, with whom Hohmann has developed a strong friendship.

For instance, after Puyat congratulated him on his recent nail-biting victory over Marlon Manalo in the International Pool Tour (IPT) 8-Ball Championship held in Las Vegas, Hohmann texted back, "*Maraming salamat*, Mr. Puyat. I feel a little sorry for Marlon. He deserved the title as much as I do. A big thank to you and to my favorite country (the Philippines) here from Vegas. —Thorsten."

Born on July 14, 1979 in Fulda, Germany, the soft-spoken Hohmann started playing pool in 1992. He had tried almost every kind of sports from football to table tennis, but he eventually discovered that billiards best suited him.

"I fell in love with the game," he said. "I focused on improving my technique and learning everything it takes to be a world champion."

On the evening of July 20, 2003, Hohmann became a world champion by winning—as a rank outsider—the World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff, Wales, defeating another long shot, Canada-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan, in the finals. "I couldn't believe it," he recalled.

When he's in Germany, Hohmann divides his time between his home in Fulda and his flat in Cologne. Following his World Pool victory, Hohmann now gets invited to big-time tournaments. Together with fellow Germans Ralf Souquet and Oliver Ortmann, who are both former world champions, Hohmann practically lives in a suitcase, traveling from one big event to another across Europe and around the world.

"I get a lot of experience out of my invitations now," he once told this writer during an interview at the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City. "If you want to beat the best, you have to play them many times."

This quiet German is no stranger to 8-ball. He is a two-time European champion in straight pool and 8-ball. Hohmann was reserved and confident in this year's IPT Tour finals. "I really felt confident. I had a good night's sleep and woke up full of confidence."

On the other hand, Manalo, who was still grieving the recent death of his father, said his best efforts were simply not good enough. "I just couldn't get going. *Sayang*, but I gave it all for my country," explained the 30-year-old former snooker specialist from Mandaluyong City.

He won the second prize of $99,000 (about P5.1 million), still much more than he had won in previous international campaigns.

Two other Filipinos made the Final 6. Dennis Orcollo, 27, of Bislig, Surigao del Norte, copped third place and earned $80,000, while pre-tournament favorite and former champion Efren "Bata" Reyes bagged fourth and pocketed $65,000. The rest of the 13-man RP contingent all finished in the money, with Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan, Rodolfo Luat and Ronnie Alcano winning $30,000 each. Antonio Lining and US-based Santos Simbajon bagged $17,000 each.

Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines president Ernesto Fajardo praised the performance of the 13-man Philippine team. He said the fact that three Filipinos finished 2-3-4 in a field of 200 top-flight players proved to the world that the Philippines is a force to reckon with in this sport.

The Filipinos are also tops when it comes to camaraderie. In cash-rich competitions, most players behave like lone wolves when they are not playing. Not the Filipinos, who are always seen together. This is very unusual, said an American billiards organizer. "This kind of team spirit and camaraderie is pretty new to the American scene."

Reyes, who won the first leg of this year's Asian Tour, will be back in action at the resumption of the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, starting today. Also in the RP team are second leg winner Ramil Gallego, Bustamante, Luat and Gandy Valle. "Son of Pool" Yang Ching-sun of Chinese-Taipei won last year's Kaohsiung stop.

SPORTSWATCH

TRS Circuit Car classes up this weekend

THE TUASON RACING SCHOOL (TRS) WILL HOLD CIRCUIT CAR CLASSES tomorrow and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Subic International Raceway in the Subic Bay Freeport, Zambales. The classes are open to all teenagers and adults interested in learning basic and advanced circuit car techniques. The basic class will be held tomorrow while the advanced class is scheduled on Sunday. The fee for each class is P8,500. The classes are sponsored by Ford Racing, Addict Mobile, eStandard Insurance Corp., Petron Ultron, Goodyear, Bosch, Rota, Oakley, Trade Show, Red Horse Beer, H&R Springs, Starbright Body Kits, Manila Speedzone, Palmer-Asia Inc., Sikkens, Bilstein Shock Absorbers, K&N filters, C! Magazine and Trapik.com. For inquiries, visit TRS at 41 Pioneer Street corner Edsa, Mandaluyong City, or call 635-2587 and 747-2378.

'Rambulan' stagfest kicks off Aug. 21

INSPIRED BY THE SUCCESS OF LAST WEEK'S 289-ENTRY 'RAMBULAN' cockfest, the management of San Juan Coliseum will present another big derby on Aug. 21, 23, 25, 28 and 30 with a total cash prize of P2.5 million at stake. Also dubbed as "Rambulan" 5-stag derby, the five-day stagfest will feature the newest battlecrosses of gamefowl breeders from all over the country, according to promoter Ronnie Lacsina. For inquiries on screening and wingbanding, call 0918-9001411, 725-5369 or 725-6563.

Pasay 3-cocker gets going today

A SPECIAL 3-COCK DERBY FEATURING 52 FIGHTS GETS UNDER WAY AT the Pasay City Cockpit today with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as co-presenter. To be hosted by veteran cocker Boy Corcuera, the event will be participated in by pitfighters from such cockpits as Pasig Square Garden, Cainta Coliseum, Sta. Ana Cockpit, Makati Coliseum, Roligon, Las Piñas Coliseum and Elorde Cockpit. Meanwhile, the PCC's regular 2-cock "Ulutan" returns on Sunday. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Go Go Elgone (5), Annadator (3), Marigold (2), Pearl's Magic (6)

Race 2—(Tri)—Earl Gray (5), Nice Legs/El Cubano Oskeo (1), Queen of Diamonds (4)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Play It Again (6), Magic Bullet (3), Can And Will (2), Vinta's Pride (7), Korek Ka Dyan (8)

Race 4—(Tri)—Hundred Reason (4), Fanciful (1), Even Now (5)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Cool Operator (5), Besame Mucho (6), Hazabellagio (1), First Of All (4)

Race 6—(Trifecta)—Glamour (1), Don't tell Ella (2), Cebuana Spell (3)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Iron Tower (6), Virgin Hill (7), Golden Song (4), Cool N' Sazzy (5)

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Gentleman's Lady (2), Long Road (6), Sir Lawrence (5), Assunta De Rio (4)

Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Lady Commander (4), Arctic Desert (2), Qui Paris (6), Dark Desert (7), District Three (8), Mighty Mare (6)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

US training for Dagmil, Torres set

By Musong R. Castillo

TORRES

DAGMIL

BEMEDALLED LONG jumpers Maristela Torres and Henry Dagmil will leave for the United States in the next few days to train under seasoned Cal State coach Chris Huffins not just for the Doha Asian Games in December but for the Olympics in 2008 as well.

Dagmil leapt to a distance of 7.82 meters for the gold medal and a new Southeast Asian Games mark last December while Torres bested compatriot Lerma Balauitan in an enthralling final leap for the women's SEAG gold.

The duo will be the first beneficiaries of a program drawn up by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco and backed by athletics chief Go Teng Kok.

Gymnast Ruel Ramirez will be the third athlete to benefit from the program. His training in the US is being arranged.

Torres and Dagmil's training will not cost the POC a cent as they will be housed, fed and funded by Fil-American families in the US.

These families will also pay for the services of Huffin, a 2000 inductee into the Indiana track and field Hall of Fame.

Cojuangco said that expenses could easily run up to $2,000 (P104,000) a month for each athlete.

"We've been way behind in terms of (athletics) technology," Cojuangco said. "Their (athletes') exposure to a coach like Huffins could hopefully take care of that."

"I believe that once we get them (Torres and Dagmil) to the US, we will have a good chance at winning (in the Asiad)," said Go. "Their SEAG efforts are already close to the Asian standard."

Dagmil's new SEAG record falls just a few hundredths of a meter short of the Asian Games mark, while Torres' golden leap of 6.58 meters in turning back Balauitan is just a shade under the 6.70-6.80 mark needed for a medal in Doha.

Boom-Boom's Chilean foe to be replaced

BAUTISTA

UNDEFEATED REY "Boom Boom" Bautista will not be facing the tough Chilean Moises Gutierrez, after all.

The two fighters were supposed to duke it out in a 10-round bout underneath the Sept. 16 rematch between Marco Antonio Barrera and Rocky Juarez.

Bautista's chief handler, Tony Aldeguer, told the INQUIRER the other day in Cebu City's ALA Gym that the Golden Boy Promotions of Oscar De la Hoya is still trying to find a credible opponent for the Filipino star.

Aldeguer said that matchmaker Sampson Lewkowicz had told them that Gutierrez's entourage were denied US visas.

Bautista, together with Filipino trainer Ala Villamor, will leave next week for the US to continue his training at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood, California.

"We trust Golden Boy can find another worthy opponent for Boom-Boom in time for Sept. 16," says Sammy Gello-ani, Bautista's Filipino promoter.

De La Hoya's outfit promotes Bautista in the US. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

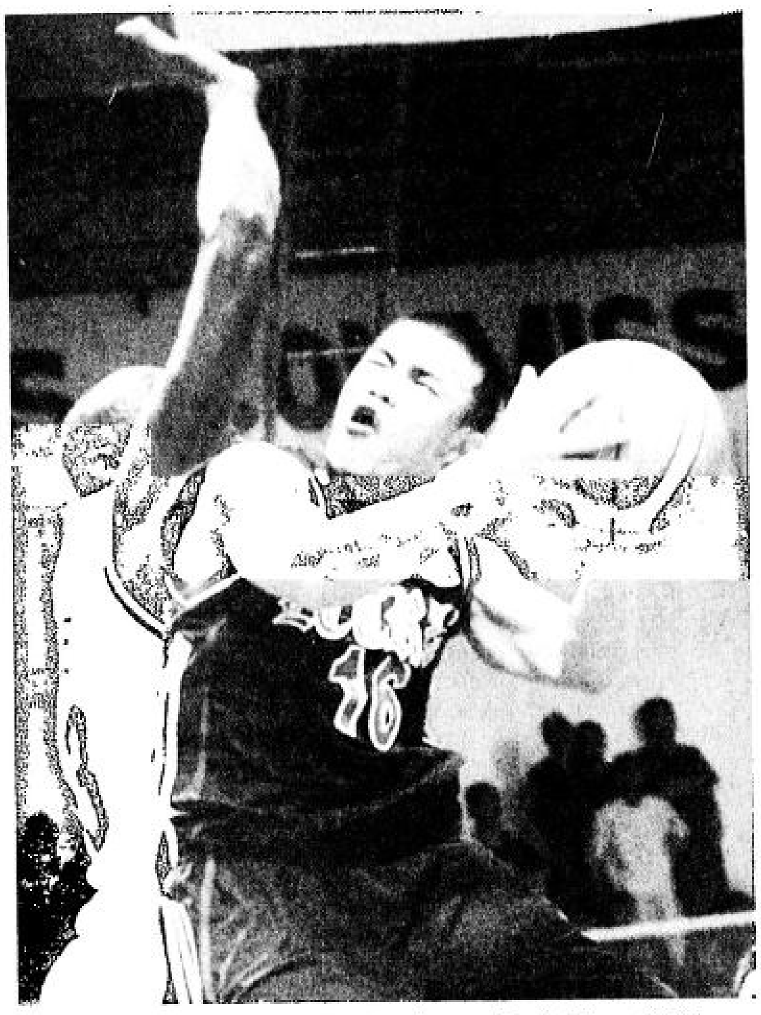
PUP, La Salle put Milo All-Students net titles on line

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS POLYTECHNIC UNIversity of the Philippines and De La Salle University lead the cast of teams seeing action in the 2006 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships to be played on Aug. 5-6 and 12-13 at the Philam Homes Tennis Club in Quezon City.

The Sta. Mesa-based PUP netters are expecting stiff opposition from UAAP champion La Salle and dark horse University of Santo Tomas in defense of their men's team title in the tournament organized by CTW and supported by Adidas and Prince tennis equipment.

La Salle's Lady Archers, who upset the vaunted College of St. Benilde squad last year, will be hounded once again by their sister school for the women's crown.

Thirty school teams have signed-up for the event that features competitions in the collegiate men's and women's division and in the high school boys and girls categories.


JUST how good San Beda's offensive dynamo Daniel Ekwe (left) is on defense will be known anew today against San Sebastian. ERIK ARAZAS

Lions seek top spot vs Stags

SAN BEDA, BIDDING TO END A 28-YEAR title drought, tries to regain solo top spot when the Lions tangle with the San Sebastian Stags today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Spearheaded by 6-foot-8 Nigerian Samuel Ekwe, the Lions are heavily favored to post their seventh straight win and improve their card to 8-1 against the fifth-running Stags (3-5) at 2 p.m.

"We can't afford to slow down because a mistake or a loss could be crucial in our bid to get the twice-to-beat advantage," said San Beda coach Koy Banal. "That's definitely our goal, finish at the top two spots going to the Final Four."

The Lions, which boosted their stock after bringing down defending champion Letran Knights last week, will pin their hopes anew on Ekwe, who has been creating mismatches with his height and defense.

Against Jose Rizal U, the 6-foot-8 Nigerian produced 10 points, 13 rebounds and 11 shot blocks.

Ekwe is currently the leader in statistical points after the first round with 341, based on points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks production.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	7	1
Letran	7	1
PCU	6	2
Mapua	5	3
S. Sebastian	3	5
Perpetual	2	6
St. Benilde	1	7
Jose Rizal	1	7

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
12 noon—SSC vs. San Beda (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs. Mapua (Srs)

Mapua (5-3) guns for its sixth victory against Jose Rizal in the other seniors game at 4 p.m.

The Cardinals are within sight of a Final Four slot with a 5-3 record, but they can't be so sure against the Bombers who will be playing pressure-free with a 1-7 card.

Meanwhile, Philippine Christian U's Gabby Espinas wound up second in statistical points behind Ekwe with 331, followed by Perpetual's Khiel Misa (305), JRU's Floyd Dedicatoria (300), Letran's Boyet Bautista (243), Mapua's Neil Pascual (224), San Beda's Yousif Aljamal (216), SSC's Jim Viray (211) and St. Benilde's Willan Johnston (211). *Marc Anthony Reyes*

UMak crushes HAU

STANDINGS	W	L
AMACU	3	0
SSC-Cavite	3	0
New Era	3	1
STI	2	1
PLP	2	1
St Clare	1	2
CEU	1	2
UMak	1	2
UM	0	3
Holy Angel	0	4

UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI CRUSHED HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY, 85-67, AT THE jampacked HAU gym in Angeles City on Wednesday to register its first win in three matches in the 2006 National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and University (Naascu) basketball tournament. Veteran forward James Mangaran scored a game-high 22 points for the Wizards, who dominated the game throughout. Backing up Mangaran were Bong Nograda and John Tapit, who added 12 points apiece, and Glenn Banguibang, who contributed 11 points. Chum Cuizon and Roy Tungol paced the Flyers with 21 and 10 points, respectively.

Bata joins SMB 9-ball

KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN—FILIPINO pool legend Efren Bata Reyes, fresh from a rousing $65,000 performance at the recent IPT tour in Las Vegas, will again lead a powerhouse cast of Filipino cue artists from Aug. 4-6 as the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour resumes at the Kaohsiung Business Exhibition Center. Star Sports will cover the event. The Filipinos have so far dominated the circuit, with Reyes winning the first leg in Vietnam and Ramil Gallego claiming the second leg in Bangkok. They will be joined by former World Pool runner-up Francisco Bustamante, 2005 Singapore leg winner Gandy Valle and Rodolfo Luat.

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No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

TWO GOLDS: Athens Olympics swim star Michael Phelps posted meet records in ruling the 200m free and 200m butterfly of the USA Team Trials Wednesday at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatic Center in Irvine, California. Phelps clocked 1 min 54.32 sec. in the 200m butterfly and 1:45.63 in the 200m freestyle. AFP

EUROPEAN MEET

Germany's Steffen rips 100-m freestyle record

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY—BRITTA STEFFEN of Germany set a world record in the women's 100-meter freestyle Wednesday at the European Swimming Championships, finishing in 53.30 seconds.

The previous record was held by Lisbeth Lenton of Australia with a time of 53.42, set at the Commonwealth Games trials on Jan. 31 in Melbourne, Australia.

On Monday, Steffen was part of the German team that broke the world record in the women's 400 freestyle relay.

Steffen was 0.11 seconds off the previous record at the 50-meter mark, but held up strongly on the second and final lap to break the record by 0.12.

She looked at the time on the screen above the pool and almost started to cry, but then took off her cap and her look turned to one of astonishment.

"I can't believe it. It's like when you lose and you can't believe it either," Steffen said. "I still can't believe I set a new world record."

Her previous best time was 54.29, a national record set in June at the German championships. But she was relatively unknown on the international stage.

The 22-year-old swimmer's best previous placing was 15th in the 50 freestyle at the 2002 Europeans.

Steffen, however, gave an indication Monday of her potential when she swam her leg in the record-breaking relay in 52.66, the fastest of all time. *AP*

BRITTA Steffen exults after learning that she smashed the world record in the women's 100m freestyle with a time of 53.30 seconds. AP

Baldness: A Life Threatening Problem

Yes baldness kills, everyday it's like watching your youth, virility and good looks slip away. You can gradually lose the drive to socialize and perform. You feel utterly wretched and inconsolable, wondering why it's you who had to lose hair. Because everybody else has a full head of hair, they trivialize the pain, misery and trauma that goes with being bald. You often wonder if you will be able to live your life normally again.

Svenson's Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction is the world's first non-surgical synthetic skin graft replacement procedure and the benchmark for all other methods of hair replacement. It is safe, seamless and transparent, your hair appears to grow evenly right from the scalp. It restores a fuller and more attractive head of hair that you can forget about as soon as it sets on your head. Bonded to your scalp to produce a semi-permanent natural-looking head of hair, it can't be detected or dislodged ever.

Stop wondering what life would have been like if you had hair. With Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction, you can free yourself from all the miseries of baldness. Call Svenson NOW at 892-HAIR (4247) for your free consultation.

Clijsters cruises; Pierce struggles

CLIJSTERS

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—TOP seed Kim Clijsters won her 12th match in 13 starts, producing a 6-1, 6-2, thrashing of Samantha Stosur to bolt into the third-round of the $1.34-million WTA event Wednesday.

The Belgian was ruthless in her 53-minute demolition of the 39th-ranked Australian, joining holder Mary Pierce in getting off to a winning start after a bye at this costal golf resort.

Clijsters won both of her Fed Cup matches against the US last month and lifted the first title of the summer hardcourt season last weekend in northern California at Stanford.

Sixth seed Pierce had to struggle for more than two and a half hours before squeezing out a 6-1, 6-7 (7/9), 7-6 (7/4), victory over Sybille Bammer.

The 2000 Roland Garros champion was playing for the first time since suffering a right foot partial tendon tear in February. Her last match was the Paris indoor final, which she lost to Amelie Mauresmo.

Clijsters couldn't have been more pleased with her one-way rout.

"It's nice to keep playing my best tennis. I knew I had to be on my toes today, she can play well and I know her game can be tough.

"I'm very pleased to have gotten out in two sets."

Nadia Petrova's return after two months away with a hip problem fell short as the Russian third seed lost badly to compatriot Anna Chakvetadze 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2.

Clisters has been on a tear since Wimbledon, her only loss coming to rival Justine Henin-Hardenne in the grass-court semi-finals.

She next plays Jelena Jankovic, who beat Alana Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-1, 7-6 (7/4). Another Serb, 14th seeded Ana Ivanovic dispatched 33-year-old American Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-2.

Russian fourth seed Elena Dementieva got on and off court with efficiency in a 6-2, 6-2 thrashing of American Ashley Harkleroad while Slovak 11th seed Daniela Hantuchova beat Olga Savchuk of Ukraine 6-2, 6-4.

Vera Zvonareva advanced when China's Peng Shuai quit due to heat exhaustion, handing the Russian a 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), ret, win. *AFP*

Hewitt advances

WASHINGTON—Third seed Lleyton Hewitt advanced to the third round of the Legg Mason Classic with a gritty 6-7 7-6 6-4 victory over an upset-minded Vincent Spadea in a two-hour, 32-minute slugfest on Wednesday.

In other matches involving seeds, number seven Dmitry Tursunov of Russia defeated Edgardo Massa 3-6 6-1 3-3 when the Argentinean retired with an injury to his right shoulder. *Reuters*

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Mux Equipment and Accessories
[Reference No.: PB060531-EL0090]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)*, through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *Php 5,480,800.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Mux Equipment and Accessories**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Mux Equipment*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting August 2, 2006 to August 29, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. of August 30, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 54,808.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 82,212.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 137,020.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 5,480,800.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on August 30, 2006 / 10:00 a.m. at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 4 & 10, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION/SMDP

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers/millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction/SMDP of 49,950 MT or 999,000 bags More or Less 15% brokens imported Thailand Rice 2006 Arrivals:

PARTICULARS	VOLUME MT	INDICATIVE PRICE
Farmer's Organizations	10,000	P1,050.00/bag
Retailers	10,000	
Open to all interested Buyers	29,950	

The pre-Auction/SMDP conference and Auction/SMDP proper shall be conducted simultaneously in Manila, Cebu City and Davao City at 10:00 a.m. on the following dates and venues until the stocks are sold:

Venue	Contact Person	Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
NFA Cebu Office Gov. M. Cuenco Ave., Banilad, Cebu City	Mr. Raul Chong Tel. No.: (032) 232-1939 (032) 232-6832	Aug. 8, 2006 Aug. 15, 2006	Aug. 10, 2006 Aug. 17, 2006
NFA Davao Office Sta. Ana Ave., Davao City	Ms. Dianne Silva Tel. No.: (083) 554-3200 (082) 227-4166	Aug. 8, 2006 Aug. 15, 2006	Aug. 10, 2006 Aug. 17, 2006
FDC, FTI Compound Taguig, Metro Manila	Atty. Basilides Taco Tel. No.: (02) 563-9437 (02) 563-9451	Aug. 8, 2006 Aug. 15, 2006	Aug. 10, 2006 Aug. 17, 2006
	Mr. Ruben Reside Tel. No.: (044) 463-1168 (044) 463-1233		
	Ms. Espie Tecson Tel. No.: (02) 426-0569		

All interested bidders/buyers are required to submit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling)
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-Auction/SMDP and Auction/SMDP proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank.

Interested bidders for Metro Manila may secure the Terms and Conditions starting **August 8, 2006** at NFA Central Office located at Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, interested bidders may call the above-mentioned contact persons.

Bid documents will be available during the pre-SMDP conference to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for FO's/retailers and P2,000.00 for other interested bidders (wholesalers/millers).

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ**
Assistant Administrator and
Concurrent Director, DMO

(PDI - Aug 4 & 5, 2006)

RP bowlers receive P1M from Jimenez

JIMENEZ

THE NATIONAL bowling team has found a godfather in businessman and former Manila congressman Mark Jimenez.

A former bowler himself, Jimenez issued a check for P1 million to initially fund the Philippine keglers' campaign in the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, this December.

"I call this sharing and loving fellow Filipinos who want to excel and bring more glory to the country," said Jimenez after turning over the check to International Bowling Federation (FIQ) and Philippine Bowling Congress (PBC) president Steve Hontiveros in a simple ceremony held at the Circles Restaurant in Shangrila Makati Hotel.

Jimenez, who was active in the sport in the 1980s playing with the likes of former senator Tito Sotto and Bong Coo, responded to the bowlers' plea for financial support from the private sector for their Asiad training and other international exposures.

Although now ranked as sports benefactor like Ricky Razon for golf, Jimenez said he prefers to be called "a friend" who wants to share rather than help.

"I love bowling very much," said Jimenez. "The amount I gave is just my initial donation to the association."

Hontiveros, PBC management committee head Coo and the national bowlers lauded Jimenez's support.

RP jin bags bronze

TEENER KRISTINE ELAINE ALORA of Team Petron Philippines bagged the bronze medal in the middleweight division of the recent 6th world taekwondo championships in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

A gold medalist in last year's Southeast Asian Games, the 16-year-old Alora toppled Italy's Clement Silva, 8-2, Egypt's Scham Mahmed Elsawalhy and the Netherlands' Reshmie Oogink, both by 3-2 scores, to advance to the semifinals.

However, the young Filipino campaigner fell to China's Guo Yonfei, 3-2, in the semis and had to settle for the bronze.

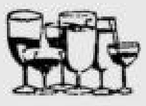
Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado praised Alora for her "gritty showing" in the tournament which drew fighters from 76 other countries.

The Petron RP squad's senior team is training in Seoul, Korea, in preparation for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, this December.

Athens Olympic veterans Mary Antoinette Rivero and Tshomlee Go head the 12-man squad, which will also compete in the Korean Open.

BUSINESS
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

IN THIS ISSUE



- **Price** outsmarted /B3
- **Shell to raise** gas prices anew by P1/liter /B8

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Export growth target raised

RP exporters expect earnings to surge by 15% in '06

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES HAS UPGRADED ITS EXPORT GROWTH TARGET for this year to 10 percent from the 8-percent goal earlier set due to the strong performance of the global semiconductor market, documents showed.

Based on the latest forecasts of the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee, the government's rosier outlook was in line with the 10.1 percent expected expansion of the global semiconductor market for this year.

The import growth projection for the year was likewise jacked up to 11 percent from the 9-percent target set during the previous DBCC forecasting in March.

The new export target for this year, which was recommended by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, was much higher than the 3.7 percent actual growth in 2005. In the first five months of the year, the country's export earnings have surged by 16 percent from a year ago.

In nominal terms, the DBCC is expecting export earnings to rise to $44.25 billion this year from the $40.23 billion raked in last year.

Also, imports are seen to hit $55.03 billion versus $47.78 billion in 2005.

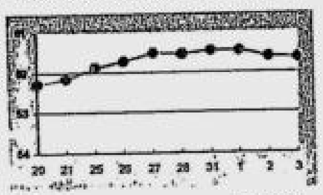
The Philippine export industry expects earnings to surge by 15 percent this year, or nearly double the government's previous goal of 8 percent, due to strong demand for electronics and garments.

For next year, however, the DBCC's latest forecast was slightly lowered to 10.5 percent

EXPORT/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.665 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 3, 2006

¥ 114.81 = $ 1

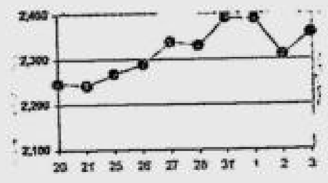
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 3, 2006

GOLD: $646.20-646.70

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 3, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 2.13% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 2.13 percent higher in a quick rebound after Wednesday's sharp losses as investors took their lead from Wall Street's overnight gains, dealers said.

SHARES/ B5

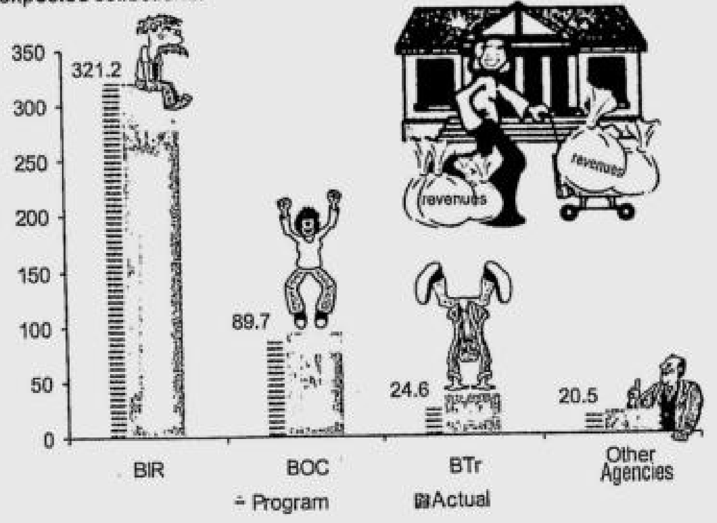
INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

1st half revenues higher than expected

(2006, in billion pesos)

Revenues were P15 billion more than expected, even though the Bureau of Internal Revenue failed to meet its target, as the Bureau of the Treasury, Bureau of Customs and other agencies had higher than expected collections.



Source: Bureau of the Treasury, PDI reports
Kate V. Pedroso PDI Research

Neda shrugs off IMF's low GDP growth forecast

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEvelopment Authority (Neda) maintains that the country has the means to achieve the targeted economic growth of at least 5.5 percent this year despite the dampening effects of high oil prices.

The Neda has shrugged off a forecast by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has estimated that the Philippines will post a gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year of only 5 percent, as the sharp rise in the cost of oil adversely is seen to adversely affect consumption.

The IMF also said that the persistent oil problem would only allow the Philippines to post a GDP growth next year of 5.5 percent. The figure was a revision from its original projection of 5.6 percent and lower than the government's target of 5.7 percent.

Dennis Arroyo, Neda director for policy and planning, said robust exports growth and strong inflows of overseas remittances would be enough to counter the dampening effects of high oil prices.

The government has set a target of attaining a GDP growth of between 5.5 and 6.2 percent this year, although economic officials said the low end of the target was more realistic.

The Neda said oil price hikes were indeed counterproductive, but it would not pull the economy down to a GDP growth of less than 5.5 percent.

GDP, the common tool in measuring a country's economic performance, is the sum of the values of all goods and services produced in an economy in a given period.

Arroyo noted that exports in the first five months of the year posted an annual growth of 16 percent to $18.687 billion. The government only assumed an 8-percent exports growth target for the full year. Exports for the full year could settle at a double-digit growth, he said.

Strong exports was largely attributed to the increasing global demand for electronics, the country's major export product. Economists said that, coming from a weak demand last year, the electronics sector faces a cyclical upswing in demand this year.

Arroyo likewise noted that remit-

NEDA/ B3

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Manila Mining to raise ₱895M through stock rights offering

Firm plans to pay debts, fund exploration projects

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MANILA MINING CORP., WHICH is 20-percent owned by gold producer Lepanto Consolidated Mining, wants to raise P895 million through a "2-for-1" stock rights offer in September.

In a disclosure, the company said the amount would be used to pay debts and fund planned exploration projects.

Manila Mining said its board approved on Wednesday the proposed stock rights offer, which would support an increase in the company's authorized capital stock to P1.8 billion from P1.2 billion.

The record date was tentatively set for Aug. 30 while the offer period may start in late September.

Shareholders will be offered the right to subscribe to one common share for every two shares they hold as of the record date at P0.015 a share.

An initial payment of 50 percent will be due upon subscription, and the balance in the next 30 days.

Lepanto is also raising P639 million through a "1-for-8" stock rights offer in September.

In 2002, Manila Mining had obligations to Equitable PCI Bank , Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and International Exchange bank worth P254.6 million.

In 2004, it reduced it debts to P193.4 million by making partial payments to its creditor banks. The loans from these banks represented foreign currency loans used to import various mining equipment. The loans were restructured and converted into peso loans.

In 2005, Equitable PCI assigned to a special purpose vehicle P101.8 million worth of loans to Manila Mining. In the same year, Metrobank sued the mining firm before the Makati regional trial court to collect P72.18 million in principal loans plus interest. Manila Mining asked the court to dismiss the case based on alleged defects on the complaint. The case is pending before the court.

In November 2000, the company's gold mining and milling operations in Surigao del Norte were temporarily shutdown due to a landslide affecting one of its open pits. It resumed its milling operations only in 2001. On July 26, 2001, the company's board decided to close the firm's mining operations as its authority to operate the tailings dam expired. Its operations remained suspended to this day..

In the meantime, Manila Mining said several companies had expressed interest in its other gold mine, the Kalayaan gold mine, in the southern province of Surigao del Norte.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources earlier said it had yet to approve an exploration permit for the company's Kalayaan gold project.

Bourse's weekly publication gets facelift

THE WEEKLY PUBLICation of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) has just gained more depth and breadth following the completion of its new format.

Francis Lim, PSE president and chief executive officer, said the reformatted PSE Weekly Report now offers readers and users more useful stock market information.

"It's packed with more information—tables, graphs and summaries—that will definitely come in handy to investors, analysts, business writers and other stakeholders," Lim said after the reformatted PSE Weekly Report was released last week.

The new look features additional tables on daily PSEi movements alongside daily and weekly foreign transaction summaries, as well as daily trading volume, value, and number of trades. It also includes a breakdown of trading for the regular market and the non-regular market, which comprises negotiated block sales and odd lots.

The Weekly Review segment was renamed Market-Moving News, where major events with a bearing on market activity are featured in bullet points, along with supporting graphs and/or tables for easy reading.

The PSE also added corporate highlights, like earnings reports, dividend declarations, and new listings, together with tables on the market capitalization of foreign and domestic firms.

To give readers a better insight about the performance of the PSEi, the first page of the PSE Weekly Report features a graph that tracks the PSEi's daily movement in the previous 52 weeks. The graph is superimposed on figures, showing daily total value turnover.

In addition, the weekly price performance of all 30 PSEi constituent companies is now part of the main feature of the weekly report. In the publication's old format, only the top five index gainers and losers were included. Along with the price changes and regular market value turnover, the weekly report also includes a summary of the number of gainers and losers, as well as the unchanged PSEi stocks.

PHILIPPINE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS NAVAL LOGISTICS CENTER
Fort San Felipe, Cavite City

01 August 2006

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Navy is inviting interested proponents to purchase thru pubic auction on "as is, where is" basis, the following:

Lot	Description	Location	Min Bid Price	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline of Submission/ Opening of Bids	Price of Application Form
1	Used Oil	Naval Petroleum Depot, Sangley Pt., Cavite City	P118,440.00	9:00 AM August 8, 2006	9:00 AM August 16, 2006	P500.00
2	F/B Calypso	Fort San Felipe, Cavite City	P103,500.00			P500.00

Pre-Bid Conference : Naval Sea Systems Command Conference Room, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City.
Bid Bond : Cash/manager's/cashier's check equivalent to 10% of the offered price.
Requirements for Lots 1 and 2:
a. Business Name
b. Mayor's Permit
Additional requirement for Lot 1: Valid EMB-DENR Accreditation as Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) Facility operator (Waste Oil Treaters).
For Inquiry: Contact PN Disposal Committee (PNDC) Secretariat at Tel Nr 431-02-04 Loc 5543.
The PNDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, to annul bidding process and to reject bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

For the CHAIRMAN, PN DISPOSAL COMMITTEE:

(Sgd.) CDR EULOGIO P LUTERIA PN
Secretariat, PNDC

(PDI–August 3, 4 & 5, 2006)

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 3, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	11,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	1,540,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	53.5	52	53.5	1,241,000
China Banking Corp.	890	890	890	890	80
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	84.5	84.5	82.5	82.5	59,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	38	36.5	37.5	632,300
Philippine National Bank	35	35	35	35	20,000
Phil. Savings Bank	40	42	40	42	16,300
Security Bank Corp.	47	47.5	46.5	47.5	49,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44.5	44	44.5	10,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Atr Kimeng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	3,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.8	1.86	1.8	1.86	387,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30	30	30	19,800
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1590	1590	1590	1,110
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1975	1975	1950	1950	210
Ivantage Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	433,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42	42	41.5	42	778,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp	43	43.5	43	43.5	327,200
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	11,400
Manila Electric Co. B	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.75	1,340,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.4	1,390,000
Petron Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.25	1,981,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.76	1.76	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	21,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	33.5	33	33	175,300
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.55	3.65	2,401,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	64.5	65.5	133,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	72	71	72	49,500
Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	107,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,070,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	2,979,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	782,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
CHEMICALS					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	10,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.29	0.31	133,370,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	33,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	8,000,000
Ayala Corp.	415	420	412.5	420	96,190
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	167,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	16,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.82	1,360,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	230,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	64,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.93	0.93	1,100,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.05	3.05	2.85	2.85	171,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	14,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	2,936,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.2	4.05	4.2	737,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	459,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6	6.1	6	6	150,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.18	2,620,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	500,000
SM Investments Corp.	222	224	222	223	53,760
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.07	0.07	0.0675	0.0675	9,900,000
Vivant Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	160,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	4,728,800
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.43	350,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.02	2,506,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	310,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.31	6,140,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,518,000
C & P Homes, Inc	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	9,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	8,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	4,210,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.042	0.042	0.038	0.038	5,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	8,013,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	63,361,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.24	11,890,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	530,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	83,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.42	40,820,000
SM Development Corp.	1.58	1.64	1.58	1.6	503,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.1	9,227,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.75	17.25	16.75	17.25	84,200
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	109,000
TELECOMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.3	1,493,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	990	1010	990	1010	58,810
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.75	3,809,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2030	2070	2030	2065	134,530
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	2,100,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Ionics Inc .	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.88	360,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	5,000,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.031	99,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.9	106,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	520,300
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1	1	1	1	4,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	629,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.4	900,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	230,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.51	0.58	0.51	0.55	6,460,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1450	1450	1450	1450	50
iPeople Inc	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.22	2.26	2.16	2.2	328,000
Paxys Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	521,800
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.15	926,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.1	4.25	4.1	4.25	393,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	29,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	249,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	10,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	12,990,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.027	0.027	0.023	0.023	1,592,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.026	0.027	647,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	626,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.2	4.25	4.1	4.25	3,710,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.25	4.3	4.2	4.3	3,774,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	76,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.51	0.57	0.5	0.56	4,990,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	340,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.26	605,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	205,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.25	16.5	76,700
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series I	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17	17.25	17	17.25	855,800

CURRENCIES

August 3, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.782044	1.000000	51.5810
Japan	Yen	0.006823	0.008724	0.4500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.467428	1.876400	96.7866
Hongkong	Dollar	0.100606	0.128645	6.6356
Switzerland	Franc	0.635240	0.812282	41.8983
Canada	Dollar	0.693671	0.886997	45.7522
Singapore	Dollar	0.494683	0.632551	32.6276
Australia	Dollar	0.597391	0.763884	39.4019
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.074553	2.652731	136.8305
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208534	0.266652	13.7542
Brunei	Dollar	0.493123	0.630557	32.5248
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020656	0.026413	1.3624
Uae	Dirham	0.212929	0.272272	14.0441
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.278700	65.9566
Argentina	Peso	0.254738	0.325733	16.8016
Brazil	Real	0.358423	0.458316	23.6404
Denmark	Kroner	0.134027	0.171380	8.8400
India	Rupee	0.016779	0.021455	1.1067
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212917	0.272257	14.0433
Mexico	New Peso	0.071273	0.091137	4.7009
New Zealand	Dollar	0.485019	0.620194	31.9902
Norway	Kroner	0.126905	0.162274	8.3703
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012969	0.016584	0.8554
South Africa	Rand	0.113895	0.145637	7.5121
Korea	Won	0.000813	0.001039	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.108849	0.139185	7.1793
Syria	Pound	0.015065	0.019264	0.9937
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023810	0.030446	1.5704
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000364	0.000466	0.0240

Price outsmarted

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

PRICESMART, THE FIRST FOREIGN store to open in the country under the new liberalized retail law, has shut down all of its four stores.

The warehouse chain has been closed since last week, after the Philippine partners remitted a $4.78-million loan payment to their former San Diego, California-based parent company.

Though still named after the US warehouse chain, PriceSmart has been strictly a local company following the August 2005 buyout by a group led by William Go of the Fat and Thin champoy fame.

Despite the buyout, the local PriceSmart still owed its US parent $8.85 million, which matures in 2012.

But the San Diego company decided to record a full impairment, after receiving the $4.78 million payment, "in the light of the uncertain future" of its former Philippine subsidiary, said PriceSmart CEO Robert Price.

The US parent also wrote off $20 million in losses that had accumulated since its 2001 opening.

According to the grapevine, importer-retailer Lucio Co has already concluded negotiations to acquire all four stores, including the flagship Fort branch, and convert them into his Pure Gold supermarket chain.

Go will reportedly concentrate his retail experience on running, along with Cebuano partners, the Cost-U-Less warehouse store in Libis, and reopen the shuttered Ortigas branch of PriceSmart, presumably under the Cost-U-Less shingle.

Brat pack reunion

THE NOW-SHUTTERED Baguio Military Institute was known in the '50s and '60s as the reformatory boarding school for spoiled rich kids.

Founded in 1956 by former Baguio Mayor Benito Lopez of the landed Lopez-Jison clan, BMI counts Manuel Lopez of Meralco, Panchito Lopez-Puckett, the Garcia brothers of Chemphil, Amado Bagatsing, banker Carlos Pedrosa, Adel and Arthur Antonino, the Henson brothers, the Chiongbian brothers, lawyer Andy Fornier, the Teehankees and the Lichaucos among its colorful students.

A group of BMI alumni led by Puckett is organizing a Sept. 1 reunion at the Club Filipino. They also hope to round up a group of investors to reopen the 11-hectare campus, which has been closed since the '70s, this time as a coed college.

Fountain of profit

MANILA Water Co. is not only proving to be a fountain of profit for the Ayalas, with its 25 percent increase in net income to P1.23 billion for the first half of the year; the company's executive stock option plan is proving quite generous as well.

The directors and top officers of Manila Water last week acquired thousands of company shares each for as low as P2.17 a share.

MWC president Antonino Aquino led the winners with 2.1 million shares awarded at the P2.17 price, treasurer Sherisa Nuesa with 1.2 million shares, and directors Jaime Augusto de Ayala, Aurelio Montinola III, Oscar Reyes and Cielito Habito picked up 200,000 shares each.

MWC closed yesterday at P8.40 a share, representing nearly four times upside from the stock option price.

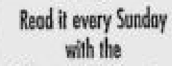
Heard through the grapevine

TAIPAN Alfonso Yuchengco was surprised to hear from a columnist Wednesday that his son, Alfonso Jr., had already resigned from the RCBC board.

The taipan had just arrived from an overseas trip and had been unaware of his son's apparently abrupt decision to leave the bank.

Still, the 83-year-old former ambassador managed to crack a joke about the situation, saying, "They always keep out the bad news from me."

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)



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Equity Fund	1.208864	1.160196

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Palace urged to liberalize entry of foreign investors

Business groups call for removal of restrictions on foreign equity

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF FOREIGN BUSINESS chambers has called on Malacañang to take more active steps in liberalizing the entry of investments from abroad, saying that the list of sectors where foreign interests is barred has not changed much in the past half decade.

In a letter to Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Rumulo Neri dated July 24, the Joint Foreign Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines said its members could not recall any significant liberalization of laws regulating foreign investment since the Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000, which prescribes minimum investment requirements that "are highly protectionist."

JFC members include the American, Australia-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean chambers, and the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

In particular, JFC noted that the 7th Regular Foreign Investment Negative List, which is expected to be promulgated through an executive order within the year, contained few changes.

The list of industries, which sets limits if not outright prohibition against foreign interest, is issued every two years, with the last one having been spelled out through EO 389 dated Nov. 30, 2004.

Existing laws restrict foreign firms' involvement in ventures such as land ownership, mass media, public utilities, gambling or gaming and defense-related activities.

"We recognize there are proposals currently being considered to remove from the Constitution restrictions on foreign equity investment in education, land, media, natural resources and utilities and, in the future, to set policy regarding such investments through legislation," JFC said. "These are reforms we support."

The group added that, in the meantime, it was batting for revisions of existing laws that would remove restrictions on foreign equity and the practice of professions by foreign professionals.

"The restrictions on professions are highly protectionist and are often worked around by both Philippine citizens and foreigners who are highly trained, competent professionals but who do not meet all local requirements," JFC said.

The foreigners said that considering Filipino professionals work in almost every country in the world, it was questionable whether the policy to reserve jobs in fields such as engineering, interior design and teaching to Filipinos was desirable.

"Surely the small numbers of foreign professionals who might wish to engage in the 22 professions on the Negative List would enrich the Philippines and pose no threat to Filipinos in these fields," they said.

Also, JFC suggested for the National Economic and Development Authority to draft a measure that would liberalize most restrictions on foreign equity contained in laws, but not in the Constitution.

Union of iBank, UnionBank to yield P0.5B in savings

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MERGER BETWEEN UNION Bank of the Philippines and International Exchange Bank, which will create the country's ninth biggest bank, is expected to yield P500 million in savings for this year.

The merger, which was approved during separate special stockholders' meetings yesterday, is expected to be completed in six months, with purchaser UnionBank as the surviving entity, according to Victor Valdepeñas, UnionBank president.

"We think there will be a positive impact as far as the bottom line is concerned," Valdepeñas said. "There's a lot of savings. I think you won't expect much in the first year because it is a period when you try to find out where best to fit our businesses with respect to people."

Despite the decline in profitability in the first semester following the payout of P13.4 billion for 98.88 percent of iBank shares, Valdepeñas told reporters that UnionBank is still on track with its target to attain net profits of about 10 to 15 percent higher than last year's P2.8-billion bottom line.

"We expect to make at least P3 billion," Valdepeñas said.

Despite the initial expenses arising from integration, he said savings would be generated with the elimination of duplications in manpower, premises and other expenditures.

Asked what will happen to iBank's existing manpower, Valdepeñas said: "We'd expect that many of them will eventually go through a process of natural attrition."

He also said that iBank has now been functionally integrated with UnionBank.

But even as UnionBank is still digesting its acquisition, Valdepeñas said the bank would be on the look-out for further buyout opportunities, in line with the bank's target to be counted among the country's top three banks by 2010.

Following the merger, the banks' combined branches of 191 would make it the sixth largest in the industry in terms of network size.

Neda shrugs off . . .

From page B1

tances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) grew 14.8 percent year-on-year in the January-to-May period to $4.9 billion, better than the 10-percent full-year growth projection.

Growth in overseas remittances helps increase consumer spending, Arroyo explained. Personal consumption buoys up the country's economy more than spending by the government, which is still confronted with a lingering fiscal problem.

The Neda official also said that high oil prices, partly brought on by conflicts in the Middle East, a major oil source, did not have much impact on consumer prices as expected. He concluded therefore that consumer spending would not be as weak as originally thought.

While the government assumed a full-year inflation of between 7.3 and 7.9 percent, average inflation in the first six months of the year only settled at 7.1 percent, the National Statistics Office earlier reported.

Export growth target raised

From page B1

versus the earlier target of 11 percent. For 2006, the strong growth in the export sector is expected to boost the performance of manufacturing which, in turn, will help fuel a 5.43-percent growth in the industrial sector.

"Higher exports will allow us to have a better BOP (balance of payment) performance to boost growth in reserves," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The better export growth outlook is also anchored on the higher growth rate expected of trading partner-countries this year, which is said to reach 3.6 percent, up from the 3.1-percent world economic outlook set by the International Monetary Fund last April.

The country's electronic products, which account for two-thirds of export earnings, consist of semiconductors, office equipment, telecommunication and medical/industrial instrumentation.

Despite the rosier outlook for exports, the DBCC has maintained its gross domestic product growth target of 5.5 percent for this year. The agency has factored in its growth forecasts the harsh impact of rising oil prices on the agriculture sector, as petroleum-based chemical fertilizers are becoming less affordable to farmers.

While the industry sector is expected to expand by 5.43 percent this year, the agriculture sector is seen to grow by 3.39 percent this year, while services may go up by 6.31 percent.

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118i Sport	Sparkling Graphite	2005	5,533 kms	P1,850,000
120i	Sparkling Graphite	2005	10,000 kms	P1,780,000
120i Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	11,071 kms	P1,880,000
316i (E36)	Cosmos Black	1997	71,934 kms	P580,000
316i (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	20,427 kms	P1,100,000
316i (E46)	Black Sapphire	2003	50,592 kms	P1,150,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	36,000 kms	P1,380,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	45,182 kms	P1,380,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	9,800 kms	P1,580,000
318i Executive (E46)	Orient Blue	2004	33,040 kms	P1,750,000
320i (E36)	Samoa Blue	1998	40,000 kms	P600,000
320i (E90)	Arctic	2005	11,351 kms	P2,110,000
520i Limousine	Oxford Green	2004	12,177 kms	P3,380,000
523i (E39)	Dunkel Blue	1997	82,145 kms	P1,100,000
525i Executive	Silver Grey	2004	17,463 kms	P3,600,000
530i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	1,683 kms	P4,921,000
X3 2.5i SAV	Mystic Blue	2005	22,254 kms	P2,850,000

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Teves wants tax payments of gov't officials made public

To plug leaks, promote good governance

By Michelle V. Remo

REP. HERMINIO TEVES, THE NEWLY ELECTED chair of the House committee on ways and means, has renewed calls to make public the income tax payments of government officials to promote good governance and help address the country's fiscal woes.

Teves said a closer look at the income tax payments of public servants and their statements of assets and liabilities (SAL) would provide information helpful in the tax audits conducted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. This, he said, would help plug billions of pesos in lost revenues every year.

He said the absence of transparency in the tax collection system encouraged tax evasion and corruption.

The BIR is not allowed to disclose the amount of taxes remitted by a taxpayer.

"We must have the political will to mandate the publication of the income taxes paid in relation to the declared net assets of government officials and executives," said Teves, who was elected committee chair by the House Tuesday to replace Rep. Jesli Lapus, now education secretary.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR, earlier included the publication of tax payments made by taxpayers both in the government and the private sector in its list of proposed revenue-raising measures to be pushed by the executive branch in Congress.

The proposal, however, has been opposed by various sectors, especially by business groups which claimed the move would curtail a taxpayer's right to privacy.

Yearly foregone revenues due to tax evasion and collection inefficiency were estimated at P50 billion and P60 billion, respectively, according to the DOF.

"Presently, our system is perpetuating secrecy and confidentiality on tax payments—which breeds corruption, connivance between taxpayers, accountants and the BIR," Teves said.

The congressman said the national government would not have been forced to undertake huge borrowings and buried in debts, which currently stands close to P4 trillion, had there been transparency and efficiency in tax collection.

Teves, likewise, commented on the earlier request by the BIR to lower its P675.4-billion collection target for the year, which it deemed too high.

The congressman said that if only tax leakages were sufficiently plugged, the tax collection target was far below the potential revenue.

Teves said the committee on ways and means, having an oversight function over revenue matters, would help ensure that the executive branch was properly conducting its tax collection function.

Transparency, accountability and the budget for the DA

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST JULY 31, HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS committee chair Rep. Joey Salceda filed a bill seeking a P46.4-billion supplemental budget. He said that the majority were in favor of this form which "offers a more workable template." Included in this budget is a P4.9-billion allocation for the Department of Agriculture.

Two and a half years ago, on Jan. 21, 2004, the Alyansa Agricultura, the largest coalition of farmers and fisherfolk in the country, came out with a two-page common agri-fishery action agenda. An important part of this relates to the P4.9-billion budget: "Ensure small farmers and fisher involvement in the formulation, allocation, and monitoring of the budget for agriculture at the local and national levels."

This was presented to all presidential candidates for the May 2004 elections for their consideration. All candidates committed to implement this item, and their positions were published in newspapers.

Alyansa position

The Alyansa has consistently advocated the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma). Part of this law states that agriculture should be given P17 billion more than the regular budget at the time the law was passed. This amounts to approximately P33 billion. But over the last five years, this amount has remained stagnant at about P15 billion.

The small farmers and fisherfolk are upset regarding this, for it has meant inadequate funding for the necessary safety nets that were promised to go with rapid trade liberalization. Without these nets, they have suffered enormously. It would therefore seem logical for the Alyansa to welcome this proposed P4.59-billion supplemental budget for the DA.

This is not necessarily so. If the additional budget is given without the transparency and accountability recommended by the Alyansa as early as January 2004 but not yet implemented to this day, the farmers are better off without it. This is because these resources may go to unscrupulous officials, with the farmers and fisherfolk used as scapegoats.

Private sector involvement

There is great benefit when the private sector is involved in the government's utilization and distribution of funds. In 1987, the average repayment rate of government loans not coursed through banks was about 20 percent.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) then initiated a micro finance program called "Tulong sa Tao" (TST). In every provincial loan committee, while the chair was from the government, four of the five members were from the private sector. The transparency and accountability with private sector involvement resulted in TST having the highest repayment rate and being identified as the best micro finance program in Asia by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In 1997, private sector leaders were appointed the regional coordinators for presidential flagship projects. During their tenure, projects were more hastily completed and allegations of corruption practically eliminated. Today, in the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA), Chair Edgar Aglipay has included private sector leaders in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the PRA budget. The results have been praiseworthy so far.

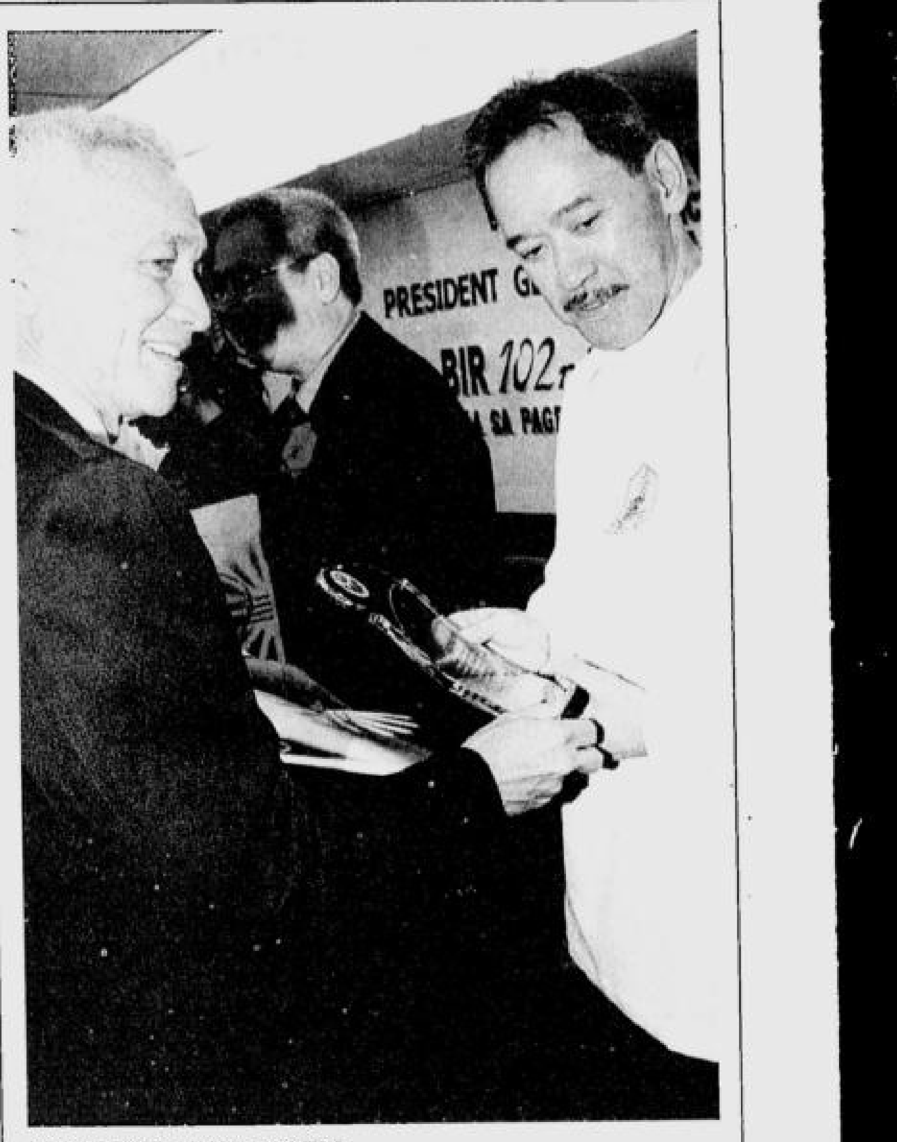
People Power

People Power can show itself in different forms: Some constructive, some destructive. An example of the former is the involvement of the private sector in the DA budget formulation, implementation and proposed monitoring.

One alternative is to give real substance to the intent behind the creation of the legally mandated Agriculture and Fishery Councils at the national, regional and provincial levels. When Alyansa suggested this in 2004, it was rejected. The recommendation has lain dormant since then and has yet to be implemented.

The Alyansa's view regarding the recent WTO negotiations that collapsed two weeks ago is "no deal is better than a bad deal." Their position regarding the proposed DA supplemental budget, if no private sector monitoring takes place, is "no money is better than bad money." However, with Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban's openness to private sector involvement, we hope that he will now institutionalize farmer and fisherfolk involvement in the budget process, especially the fund monitoring which is critical to agricultural development success.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8522112.)



2005 TOP TAXPAYERS
Innove Communications Inc., a subsidiary of Globe Telecom Inc., was cited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue as one of the country's top taxpayers in 2005. The BIR said the awards aimed at recognizing the substantial contributions of taxpayers who declared and paid their correct taxes to the government. Innove was awarded for being the top taxpayer among the BIR's large taxpayers in Cebu. Globe CFO Delfin C. Gonzales Jr. receives from Finance Secretary Margarito Teves Innove's plaque of recognition during the BIR's 102nd anniversary celebration.

Highlands to raise ₱2B via shares issuance

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LEISURE HOMES DEVELOPER Highlands Prime Inc. (HPI), owned largely by the SM Group, will raise P2 billion from the issuance of up to 20 million preferred shares at P100 a share, sources said.

To pave the way for the private equity offer, Highlands Prime announced the reclassification of 20 million existing unissued common shares into 20 million preferred shares.

The preferred shares will be "nonvoting, nonparticipating, nonconvertible, cumulative, reissuable and redeemable."

With the reclassification, Highlands will no longer need to increase its capital stock.

Company president Antonio Henson earlier said the first tranche of the preferred share offering might be set at P800 million. The issue will be managed by Banco de Oro Universal Bank's investment banking arm, BDO Capital Corp. Mall tycoon Henry Sy controls both Banco de Oro and Highlands Prime.

Highlands Prime is setting aside P800 million to P1 billion this year for high-end residential projects in Tagaytay and possible joint venture projects in other areas.

Pricing issues turn off capital market investors

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Second of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

Price fixing

BEFORE THE MARKET CAN FULLY recover from the UITF crisis, reports emerged that some banks tried to "intervene" in the electronic mechanism that was used to price the secondary market trading of the banks' government security holdings.

The electronic platform called "MART1" is the formula used by banks to derive the benchmark price for government securities in the secondary market.

According to several sources in the banking community, regulators were tipped off by the activities of some bank treasurers who had tried to prevent bond prices from dropping last May—related to their effort to prevent a sharp decline in the value of the UITFs held by their own trust departments.

Sources say regulators now hold copies of the e-mails sent by bank traders urging each other to keep their prices within pre-agreed levels—an idea that does not sit well with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla, who is also tasked with overseeing banks' compliance with financial laws.

During the interview, Espenilla declined to get into specifics about the central bank's probe of the alleged irregularities, but stressed that 'integrity' was crucial for any financial market to function normally and to thrive.

Impact on loan prices

"This is a very basic thing," he said. "People have to know that the prices they see are the real prices."

The central bank official noted that issues such as the price fixing fiasco being probed by regulators was one reason why foreign investors are hesitant to commit more funds to the local capital markets, which remains one of the smallest and underdeveloped in the region.

"Foreign players want transparent pricing," he said.

Bankers' Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo G. Coronel casts a wider net, saying the allegations of price fixing, if true, have broader implication on the prices of banks' loans to their clients and, ultimately, on the prices that the average Filipino pays for whatever he buys on a day-to-day basis.

"It affects the prices of loans and all that," he said.

The BAP—which is the umbrella organization of the country's largest commercial banks—has long advocated a shift to a more formal way of pricing and trading bonds through the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEx), at least in theory.

In practice, the reforms have been stalled by holdouts within the organization who fear the loss of traditional treasury-based income as well as the additional costs that the shift to a new trading system brings.

Market has to decide

While the central bank has pushed the reforms more aggressively, the Bureau of the Treasury—a critical component of the whole package—has opted to take its time.

In an interview, National Treasurer Omar T. Cruz said his main concern was keeping the cost of funding the government's chronic budget deficit at its lowest possible level, while keeping an eye on the need for market reforms.

The national treasurer is in a bind, knowing that regulators are committed to pushing for market reforms while bank treasurers—on whom he relies to fund the budget deficit—are against it.

Asked whether he was in favor of the BAP-sponsored reforms or of another reform package offered by a group of bank treasurers, Cruz sidestepped the issue.

"As an issuer, I never complain," he said. "It's up to the market to look at itself and decide what it wants."

More reliable system

No such ambiguity exists at the BAP, however, at least at the higher echelons of its leadership.

BAP president Ramon Sy said the organization would take steps to guard against price fixing, stressing that transparency was important in maintaining its reputation in the market.

According to Coronel, it may be time for banks to migrate to a more reliable system of pricing bonds and loans.

"One should move to something that is beyond reproach," he said. "If there's suspicion over some kind of malpractice, that's bad. There should be no iota of doubt."

Asked about the future of the MART1 benchmark, the BAP official said the system was conceived as a stopgap measure during a time when the technology for tracking actual trades was still unavailable.

"Now we can do that," he said, referring to the PDEx system being pushed by the BAP. "MART1's usefulness is over."

Motives

More importantly, Coronel said the controversy regarding the alleged price fixing activities by bank treasurers—including the reported discovery of e-mailed exchanges about keeping prices within certain levels—had revealed their motives for opposing the market reforms.

"It's about protecting their income," he said. "It's hard to trust the system [when it's] like this."

Ultimately, the success of failure of the market reforms will determine whether the wealth created in the banking community will be distributed more equitable among its stakeholders—which include depositors and investors—or merely kept within the reach of a few.

Palace asked to step into auto insurance row

THE NON-LIFE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAS asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene in the problem hounding the vehicle insurance business, saying the impasse between opposing reform proposals is putting the public at a disadvantage.

In an open letter to the President, various non-life insurance groups called for her support for the immediate implementation of the proposed reforms.

The industry is pushing for the linkup between the Compulsory Insurance Processing Center (CIPC), a clearinghouse to be owned by insurance firms, and the Land Transportation Office.

This, the industry said, would address the problem on fake insurance policies and ensure that the LTO would register only vehicles covered by an authentic compulsory third party liability (CTPL) insurance.

The groups that made the call included the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira), the Compulsory Insurance Processing Center, the Insurance Brokers Association and the Society of Independent Insurance Intermediaries Agents Associations.

"CIPC will be an independently managed company regulated by the Insurance Commission. It will also ensure the continuity of the livelihood of thousands of legitimate agents and brokers who will provide the services necessary to the public nationwide," the industry said.

The industry's proposal is backed by the Insurance Commission, which had hoped to implement the reform measure early this year. An opposing proposal from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), however, has delayed the implementation of the industry proposal.

The industry said the GSIS wanted a monopoly of the vehicles insurance business. Under the GSIS proposal, the LTO will sell only CTPL policies sold by the GSIS to finally get rid of fake insurance policies.

Mario Valdez, Pira general manager, said the proposal of the GSIS would displace some 94 insurers, 125 brokers and 15,000 agents.

"Such a move, we believe, is not a pro-poor, pro-business and not in line with your administration's agenda," the industry told the President in the letter.

Michelle V. Remo

Metrobank remains top RP bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST CO. HAS remained the country's largest bank as of June this year with consolidated assets of P593.9 billion.

The bank reported yesterday that its total assets increased by P7.4 billion from the 2005 level of P586.5 billion.

Metrobank owns the second largest thrift bank in the country, Philippine Savings Bank, as well as investment house First Metro Investment Corp.

The Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands, on the other hand, ranked as the second biggest bank with assets of P536.8 billion, followed by Equitable PCI Bank with P323.4 billion and retail tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro with P286.7 billion.

Total assets reached ₱593.B as of June

Metrobank said its consolidated deposits rose to P442.57 billion as of June 2006, from P424.3 billion in 2005.

It also remained the country's largest lender as of the first semester with P264.3 billion in consolidated net loans.

BPI is next with P223.3 billion, followed by Equitable PCI (P130.2 billion) and Banco de Oro (P85.2 billion).

The ratio of Metrobank's consolidated nonperforming loans to consolidated gross loan portfolio likewise improved to 8 percent after it sold bad assets.

Metrobank's capital funds stood at P53.1 billion.

Recently, the parent company reported an unaudited net income of over P3 billion for the first semester of 2006, 35.1 percent higher than the P2.25 billion posted in the same period last year.

Metrobank executive vice president Joshua Naing said the bank benefited from a strong macro-economic environment during the first half of the year.

"Income from trading gains was higher and our lending business held up well," Naing said.

Metrobank maintains over 800 international and domestic branches, offices, subsidiaries and affiliates.

Metrobank intends to further consolidate its position by beefing up its core capital base and hunting for potential acquisitions for the first time since 2000.

Shares close 2.13% higher

From page B1

A technical glitch late in the session prompted the exchange to suspend trading for about half an hour. But investors continued to accumulate stocks after business resumed.

The composite index rose 49.18 points to 2,357.55, after trading between 2,308.37 and 2,362.34. Volume was 3.5 billion shares worth P1.18 billion ($23 million).

The broader all-shares index gained 21.54 points to 1,450.55. Gainers led losers 60 to 30, with 42 stocks flat. *AFP*

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Aug. 1, 2006	Last Week Jul. 25, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.44117	1.41965
Managed Fund - Peso	1.59434	1.55852
Growth Fund - Peso	1.28707	1.23454
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2556	1.2404

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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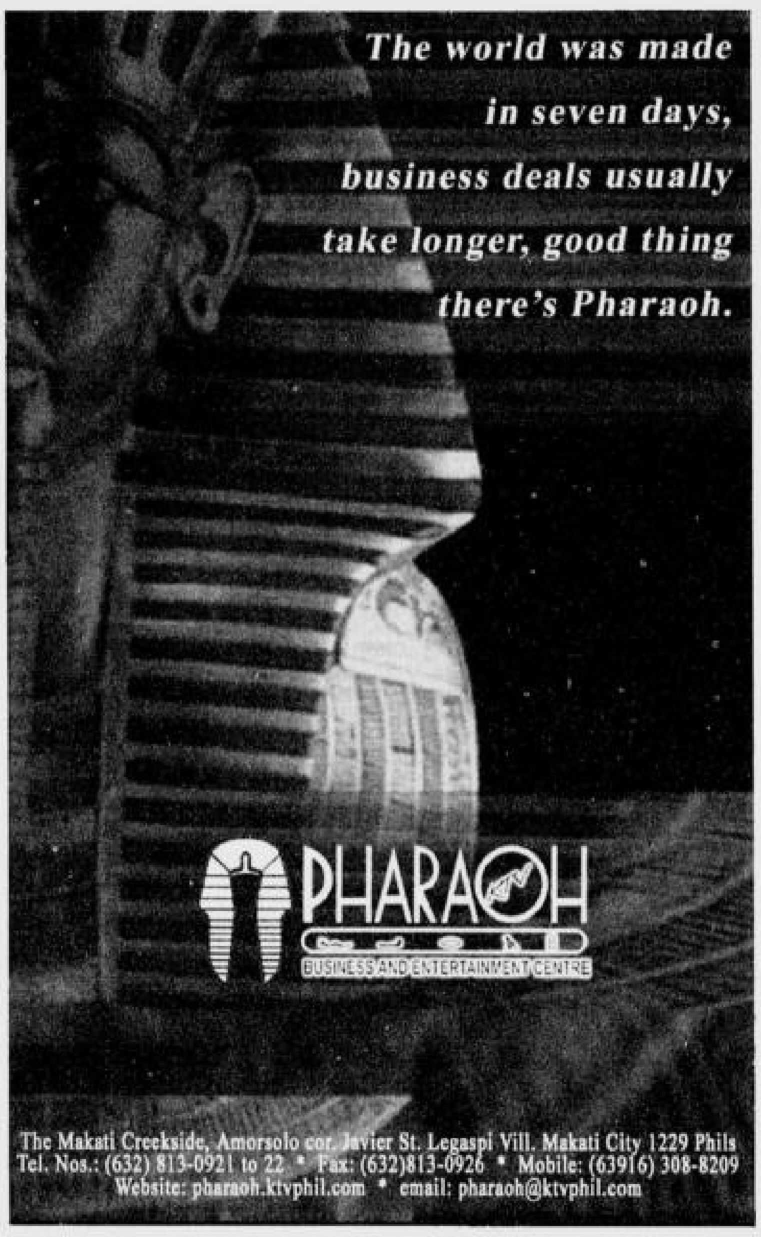
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ABN·AMRO

NOTICE TO THE FORMER BORROWERS OF BA SAVINGS BANK, GREAT PACIFIC SAVINGS BANK AND ABN AMRO SAVINGS BANK:

Please be informed that the cancellations of mortgage and ownership documents of all the foregoing borrowers who have fully paid their loans may be claimed at ABN AMRO Bank, Inc. on or before **August 15, 2006.**

Claims for the foregoing documents after August 15, 2006 shall be meted an additional fee for storage and retrieval costs. For those whose loans were paid on July 1996 or earlier, no further cancellations shall be issued after the August 15 deadline.

Please course your requests to Ms. Jeanette Marcelo at Tel. no. 884-3781. ABN AMRO Bank, Inc. is located at the 18th Floor LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

RO10 2006
Supply of Trucking/Hauling Services

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *National Food Authority, Region 10,* through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Trucker/Hauler Owners / operators / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Contracts for the Supply of Trucking / Hauling Services
Location : Cagayan de Oro City NFA Owned / Contracted Warehouses to NFA-Bukidnon, NFA Lanao del Norte and NFA Misamis Occidental
Brief Description : Contract involves the hauling of bags of Rice from NFA Cagayan de Oro City to designated destinations
Source of Rice Stocks : NFA Cagayan de Oro City Owned / Leased Warehouses

CONTRACT NO.	DESTINATION PROVINCE/ WAREHOUSE	ESTIMATED VOLUME IN BAGS OF 50 kg	MINIMUM NUMBER OF TRUCKS REQUIRED	MINIMUM NET LOAD CAPACITY (BAGS) REQUIRED	RATE / BAG OF 50 kg	APPROVED BUDGET CEILING
	BUKIDNON					
1	GID AGLAYAN, MALAYBALAY CITY	14,000	4	1,600	P 18.15	P 254,100.00
2	GID VALENCIA, VALENCIA CITY	14,000	4	1,600	P 20.08	P 281,120.00
3	GID MARAMAG, MARAMAG	17,000	5	2,000	P 23.10	P 392,700.00
	LANAO NORTE					
4	GID BARAAS, ILIGAN CITY	30,000	7	2,800	P 15.40	P 462,000.00
5	GID LALA, LALA, LANAO NORTE	10,000	5	2,000	P 25.58	P 255,800.00
	MISAMIS OCC.					
6	GID GANGO, OZAMIS CITY	47,000	10	4,000	P 31.90	P 1,499,300.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	2nd Floor, Region 10 Regional Office, NFA Bldg., Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	July 31 – Aug. 11, 2006	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Working Days
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	August 15, 2006	1:30 PM
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	August 25, 2006	1:30 PM
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	August 25, 2005	1:35 PM

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (P 2,500.00) per Contract to the National Food Authority Cashier.

The National Food Authority, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The *National Food Authority, Region 10* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 28 & Aug. 4, 2006)

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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July 2006

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to appy for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Item No.	Name of Project/Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration
1	-1- lot Supply and Installation of Double Deep Racking System in Vault No. 3 at the Basement of Building B, BSP-Security Plant Complex, Quezon City per BSP specifications, layouts and drawings	P4,850,000.00	Within 105 days from date of receipt of the approved contract
2	3 units – Double Deep Reach Truck per BSP specifications	P7,275,000.00	Within 126 days from date of receipt of approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligbility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 7-18, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	August 25, 2006, 2:00 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	September 12, 2006, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount to the BSP Cashier, as follows: **Item 1 – P2,425.00 Item 2 – P3,640.00**

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–August 4, 2006)

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **2MAGGS INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Provider of Ambulatory Surgical Services** on a Pioneer Status with project site located at **#57 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – August 4, 2006)

Head Office/Showroom
G/F State Condo 1 186 Salcedo Sts. Legaspi Village
Makati City, Philippines 1229
Telephone No.: (02) 817-8465 / (02) 750-3240
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Requirements:

1. Fluent in English is a must
2. College degree required
3. Minimum of 5 years of management experience required
4. Must be able to use PC
5. Minimum of 30 WPM typing speed
6. Japanese, Chinese or Korean knowledge a definite plus.
7. Demonstrated skill in problem solving and decision making
8. Demonstrated ability to establish rapport with customers while maintaining a commitment to customer satisfaction
9. Demonstrated skill in multi-tasking: listening, inputting data, probing, providing solutions, navigating through various screens while applying basic customer satisfaction techniques.
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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Virginia M. Sanchez has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as Per Doc # 274; Page # 56; Book # 1 Series of 2006 by Atty. Joseph Erwin J. Gregorio Notary Public for and in the City of Pasig.

(PDI – Aug. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, Northern Mindanao
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 858-7123, (08822) 72-64-76, (088) 350-4325. Telefax No.: 72-7400, 233-2305

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Northern Mindanao, through the Sub-Alloted Fund from Central Office intends to apply the sum of Six Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (P610,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Hotel and Food Accommodation** for the National Staff Meeting of DOH to be held in Cagayan de Oro City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementation Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Seven Hundred Pesos (P700.00). Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on August 4, 2006, 2:00 pm at Achievers Hall, this Office. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Managers Check, in the amount of (1% of Php610,000 or Php6,100.00). Late Bids shall not be accepted. **Bid opening shall be on August 15, 2006 at 9:00 am at DOH-CHDNM Achievers Hall.**
4. The DOH-CHDNM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

For further information, please contact the Bids & Award Committee or the BAC Secretariat at:
Department of Health-Center for Health Development-NM
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. # (088) 858-7123, 350-4325, (08822) 72-6476 or visit our website at
www.chd10.doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ALFREDO M. BARING**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI- July 28 & Aug. 4, 2006)

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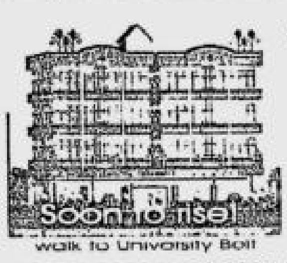

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Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy,
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:7 and 8

In Loving Memory of

MA. ASUNCION "MARICHU" RODRIGUEZ-TINGA

(1 September 1939 – 5 August 1996)

On the Tenth Anniversary of Her Demise

Holy Masses will be offered on Saturday, 5 August 2006, at the following churches:

St. Martin de Porres Parish *United Hills Village, Parañaque City*	6:00 a.m.
McKinley Hill Club House *Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*	11:00 a.m.
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne *Sta. Ana, Taguig City*	3:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish *Upper Bicutan, Taguig City*	6:30 p.m.

Her loving husband **Dante**, children **Freddie, Ampi, Danju, Jonathan, Cecille** and **Rica**, daughter-in-law **Kaye**, sons-in-law **Norman** and **Hendrik**, grandchildren, brother **Ely**, sister **Vicky**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law request relatives, friends and pious readers to continuously remember her in their prayers.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and who ever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

FLORDELIZA R. PUNONGBAYAN

(October 6, 1932 – August 1, 2006)

Sister of Erlinda and Conrado "Ed";
sister-in-law of Letty (†);
aunt of Susan and Liza & Bong Manayon;
grandmother of Erika and James Manayon.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Paul United Methodist Church (Sta. Maria St., Tondo, Manila – in front of Mary Johnston Hospital). Services will be held on August 2, 3, & 4 at 7:00 p.m. Necrological service will be on August 5, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul UMC, immediately followed by the interment at the Manila Memorial Park-Sucat, Parañaque.

Col. LEONOR DIONISIO MILAN (Ret.)

AFP Dental Officer, K of C St. Christopher Council 4655,
Lay Miniser, Holy Rosary Parish,
Diocese of San Jose Nueva Ecija
of Licab, Nueva Ecija
who peacefully joined our Lord on
July 29, 2006 at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife **Iluminada de Leon Milan**; children **Ma. Milagros Milan Fernandez & Jose Laya Fernandez, Dr. Joselito L. Milan & Dr. Rosana Trinidad-Milan, Engr. Ronald L. Milan**; grandchildren **Kristina Claudette T. Milan, Pauline Bernadette T. Milan, Jerik Martin M. Fernandez**, relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at his residence at 31 D. Esguerra Ave., Poblacion Norte, Licab, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on August 5, 2006, Saturday, 8 a.m. at Licab Catholic Cemetery after a mass at Holy Rosary Parish Church, Licab, Nueva Ecija.

Bayani B. Quilala, Jr.
"Banny"

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on August 2, 2006.

His loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla San Aemiliani, Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 6, 2006 at the Evergreen Memorial Garden, Pasig City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Our Beloved Sister

Prof. Anita R. Nera

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 31, 2006 at the age of 91.

Her brothers, sisters and their spouses **Atty. Bernardo S. Nera** and **Dr. Fe Capili-Nera, Dr. Zenaida S. Nera-Escaño** and **Dr. Rodolfo S. Escaño, Mrs. Teresita Nera-de Leon**, and **Mr. Rogelio S. Nera** and **Mrs. Lourdes Domantay-Nera**; nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces request your prayers for the pious repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at San Pedro Bautista Parish Church, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 6, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Himlayang Pilipino.

Death Notice

FLORENCIA "Poden" TAN-NG

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 31, 2006 at the age of 71.

Her body lies in state at the Presidential Chapel of Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Junquera, Cebu City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 06, 2006 at the Celestial Meadows Memorial Garden, Minglanilla, Cebu after the 1:00 p.m. Requiem Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

More Classified Ads:

National Transmission Commission	**Page A11, A19 & A30**
Office of the Ombudsman	**Page A19**
National Food Authority	**Page A30 & B5**
Philippine Navy Headquarters Naval Logistics Center	**Page B2**

XAVIER CARLOS "ZEV" ELIZALDE Y LOINAZ

29 de Enero, 1972 - 26 de Julio, 2006

SUS DESCONSOLADOS PADRES, FRED Y JOSINE;
HERMANOS, JOAQUIN, JUAN Y BIANCA, FREDDIE, SASHA;
SOBRINA, ISABELI; ABUELOS, MANUEL Y MARY ELIZALDE (q.e.p.d.);
JOSE LOINAZ (q.e.p.d..), MITA PARDO DE TAVERA;
TIOS, TIAS; PRIMO, SANTI ELIZALDE Y OTROS
MIEMBROS DE SU FAMILIA PARTICIPAN A TODOS TAN SENSIBLE
PERDIDA Y RUEGAN UNA ORACION POR EL ETERNO DESCANSO DE SU
ALMA. LOS RESTOS DEL FINADO SE HALLAN EN LA
"CAPILLA DEL SEÑOR" EN EL SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO,
CIUDAD DE MAKATI DONDE SE OFRECERA LA MISA Y REZOS
EL VIERNES Y SABADO A LAS 6:00 DE LA TARDE.

EL ENTIERRO SE VERIFICARA EN LA CRIPTA NUMERO 3
EN EL SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO,
DESPUES DE LA MISA DE REQUIEM QUE SE CELEBRARA EL DOMINGO,
06 DE AGOSTO, 2006 A LAS 2:00 DE LA TARDE.

XAVIER CARLOS "ZEV" LOINAZ ELIZALDE

January 27, 1972 – July 26, 2006

HIS BEREAVED PARENTS, FRED AND JOSINE;
BROTHERS: JOAQUIN, JUAN & BIANCA , FREDDIE, SASHA,
NIECE, ISABELI,; GRANDPARENTS, MANUEL & MARY ELIZALDE (r.i.p.),
JOSE LOINAZ (r.i.p.), MITA PARDO DE TAVERA;
UNCLES, AUNTS; COUSIN, SANTI ELIZALDE
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY REQUEST THE PIOUS
READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT THE "CAPILLA DEL SEÑOR",
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, FORBES PARK, MAKATI CITY
WHERE HOLY MASSES & PRAYERS WILL BE OFFERED
ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENING AT 6:00.

INTERMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT CRYPT NUMBER 3
AT THE SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO
AFTER THE 2:00 P.M. FUNERAL MASS ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2006.

Shell to raise gas prices anew by P1 a liter

Refiner cites escalating prices of crude oil in world market

By Abigail L. Ho

CITING THE UNABATED INCREASE IN the world market prices of crude oil, oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said it would be forced to hike its pump prices by at least P1 a liter this month.

In a briefing yesterday, Shell country chair Edgar Chua said current prices were not in line with the company's assumptions when it made its annual forecasts late last year.

"We were hoping that prices will stabilize this year, meaning crude prices should be at around the same level as last year's prices. That should be between $55 and $60 a barrel," he said. "But what we're seeing now are prices ranging from $57-$60 a barrel."

Rival refiner Petron Corp. had earlier predicted the need to increase its fuel prices by as much as P2 a liter this month.

Shell and Petron, together with other local oil firms, jacked up fuel prices by 50 centavos a liter over the weekend, in response to the skyrocketing prices of oil in the world market.

Prior to that price hike, the oil firms did not adjust their prices for three weeks, following the government's decision to cut the tariff on crude and refined petroleum products from 3 percent to 2 percent for the rest of July.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude surged to a July average of $69.17 a barrel from $65.22 a barrel in June.

On the other hand, the price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products hit $85.50 a barrel in July from $82.76 a barrel the month before.

MOPS-based diesel, however, slightly declined to $87.37 a barrel last month from $87.57 a barrel in June.

The high prices of oil in the international market can be attributed to the continuing tension between Israel and Lebanon and the uncertainties related to Iran's uranium enrichment program.

Iran has set for itself an Aug. 22 deadline to respond to calls for it to halt its uranium enrichment program.

The five permanent United Nations Security Council members, including the US, UK, China, France and Russia plus Germany had offered Iran a package of incentives if it agrees to temporarily halt its uranium enrichment program.

The uncertainty over how events in Iran would play out had spooked markets and resulted in further increases in world oil prices.

RP seen attracting more capital

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UPBEAT INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN Asia's emerging markets, including the Philippines, is expected to attract investments in capital-intensive infrastructure projects, according to financial consulting firm Punongbayan and Araullo.

Antonio Herbosa, head of corporate finance of P&A, noted that China was positioning itself in resource-rich countries to ensure a steady supply of raw materials and commodities for its rapidly growing, resource-hungry economy.

"It isn't far-fetched to assume that some of that foreign-driven liquidity from China will also trickle down to power, infrastructure and mining acquisitions or investments in the Philippines," he said.

China is currently financing the ongoing North Rail project, investing in a $300-million glass manufacturing complex and looking at various opportunities in the mining and power sectors.

The Philippines was also seen getting a slice of investments in equities.

Greg Navarro, P&A managing partner and chief executive, said Asia Pacific markets like China, India, South Korea and Singapore were the most liquid and have attracted capital from the established markets.

Navarro said global money flows were gravitating to the Asia-Pacific region amid strong performances of the United States' NASDAQ and Canada's TSX-V.

"We are now seeing a jostling for position in the world's new global markets," he said. "The consolidation story played out in the international markets is now running in new markets (with each market seeking to attract premium listing)."

In a recently released study dubbed "2006 Global News Markets Guide-Insight into international capital markets," Grant Thornton International said dual listings in stock markets were now also becoming increasingly attractive to international investors.

SOLAR ENERGY FOR 148 MINDANAO BARANGAYS
US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla witness the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Mirant Philippines and the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) to provide electricity to 148 barangays in off-grid, conflict areas in Mindanao using solar power. Representing Mirant is Jose P. Leviste Jr., Managing Director and CEO of holding firm Mirant Asia Pacific Limited while AMORE is represented by Chief of Party Ma. Theresa Cruz-Capellan. In the MOA, Mirant committed to fund the electrification of the barangays at a cost of over P110 million.

Cebu Pac adds flights to 3 tourist spots

By Riza T. Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC WILL ADD FLIGHTS TO TAGBILARAN, Cagayan de Oro and Tacloban starting August 17 as part of its expansion program.

The additional flights will result in twice-daily flights to Tagbilaran and thrice-daily trips to Cagayan de Oro and Tacloban.

At the same time, CEB is offering promo seats for its Manila–Tagbilaran and Manila–Kalibo routes for only P99 one-way.

The P99 seat sale runs from August 3 to August 10 and tickets must be used from August 14 to October 19.

After the seat sale, the lowest 'Go' fare to Tagbilaran and Kalibo will start at P568 for one-way travel.

The promo and 'Go' fares are exclusive of regular surcharges and government taxes.

The P99 one-way fare must be paid upon booking.

"As we carry on with our expansion, we will continue to offer the lowest fares in the sectors we operate. We are confident that with this seat sale more people are going to fly to Tagbilaran and Kalibo because now, they can afford to," CEB marketing director Candice Iyog said.

"Our efforts to help develop local tourism continue as we open new routes, add more frequencies to our destinations and offer the lowest fares in the market. All these are aimed at bringing air travel closer to Filipinos because we really believe that it's time every Juan flies," Iyog added.

CEB earlier opened its Dipolog and Laoag service and will start flying to Legazpi on August 17 and Singapore on August 31, 2006.

Isuzu adopts 5-hectare mangrove park in Alaminos

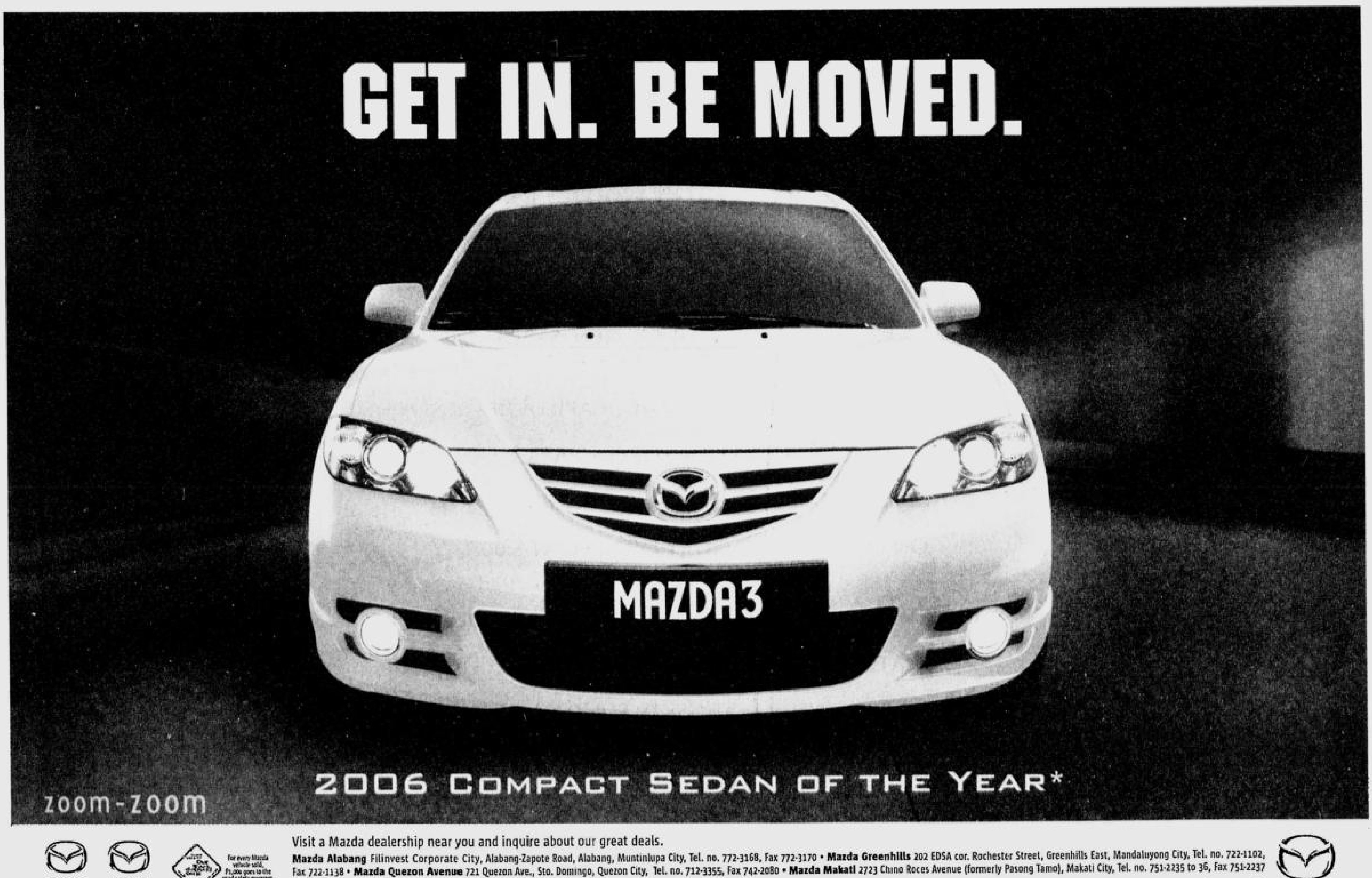
ALAMINOS CITY—ISUZU PHILIPPINES Corp. (IPC) marked its ninth anniversary by adopting a five-hectare mangrove park in this city, the home of the Hundred Islands National Park.

Yoshifumi Komura, IPC president, led officials and employees of the company during the ceremonial mangrove planting last Monday that was aimed at helping the city preserve its marine ecosystem and environment.

Komura said the IPC was celebrating another year "working as a responsible corporate citizen of the country and as a responsible partner of its customers and the local communities it serves."

"We know the important role mangroves play in protecting the coastal areas against erosion and storm surges," he said, "mangroves also nurture flora and fauna to maintain the health of local ecosystems [and are] especially important to preserving the health and beauty of the HINP."

The city used to have 600 hectares of mangrove forests, but most of these have been converted to fishponds. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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*As awarded by Auto Focus

www.mazda.com.ph

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Getting teens turned on to entrepreneurship

Setting up a venture could mean mom or dad no longer has to work abroad

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—IT MAY BE TOO EARLY TO SAY if the 2,000 or so students who participated in the "Go Negosyo Teen Edition" conference here can now pick out Tony Tan Caktiong from the crowd.

On the first day of a four-day session at the Teachers Camp here, a "Go Negosyo" lecturer flashed photographs of Tan Caktiong, the founder of the fast-food chain Jollibee; taipan Henry Sy of the SM chain of shopping malls; Chit Juan, founder of the Figaro Coffee Co. and other high-profile businessmen.

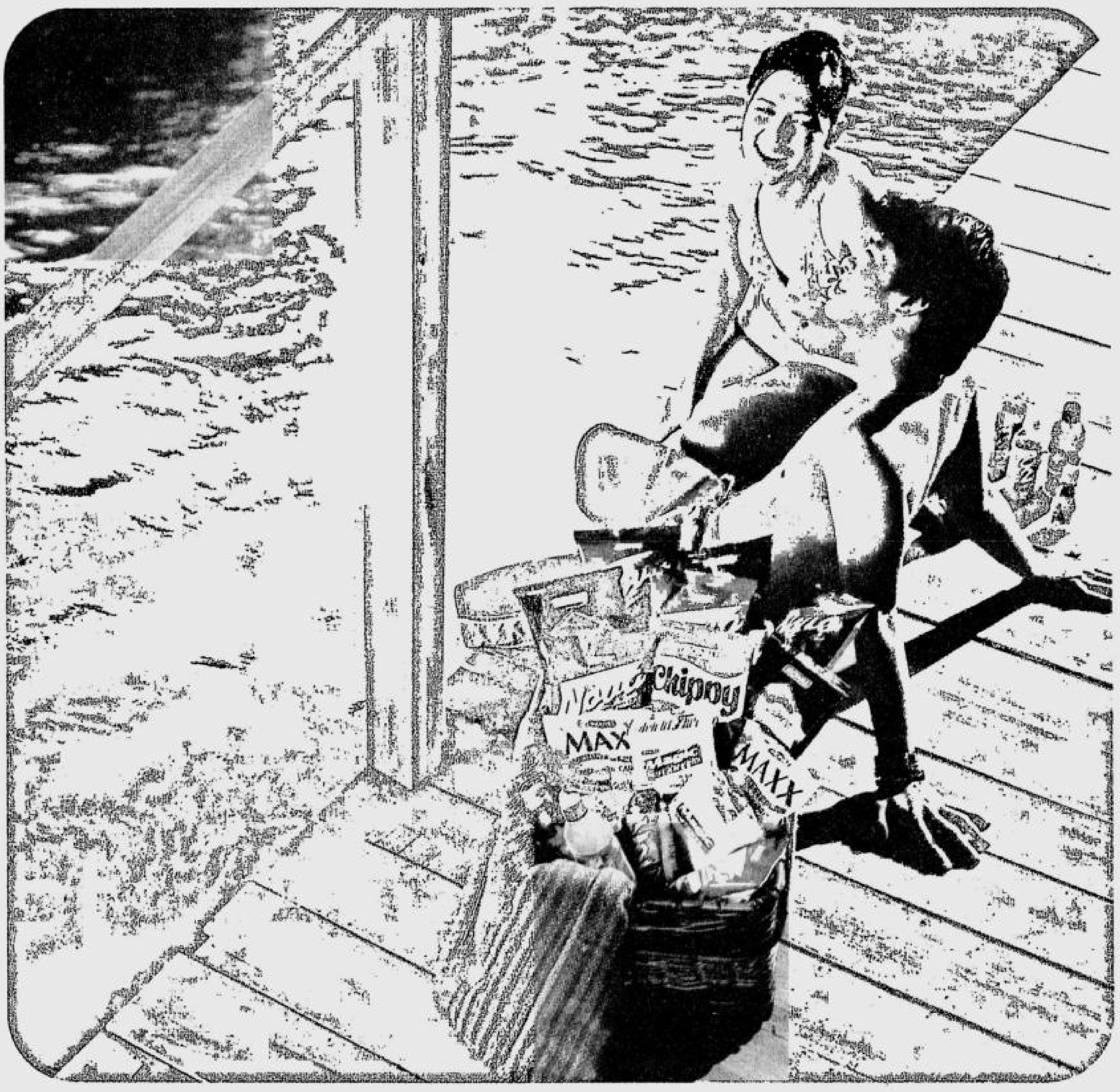
Very few students recognized them.

But making business icons memorable to young people is part of a formula Filipino business giants have adopted to cre-

GETTING/B2-2

MOTIVATIONAL book author Juliet Torcelino-Van Ruyven and former actor-turned- multilevel marketer Ferdinand "Chinkee" Tan, offers Go Negosyo Teens some humorous anecdotes about enterprising Filipinos.

VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU



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You can now start a business with ₱40,000

By Miko L. Morelos

FOR P15,000, ONE COULD BY A 3G cell phone, an Italian handbag or even a piece of art work, say a sculpture or a painting.

But a business for P15,000? No way, you've got to be kidding.

Charlie Melano, CEO of Super Value Franchise Concept Inc. (SVFCI), isn't fooling around when he tells people that for P15,000, one can own a business. With SVFCI's business packages, a business could now be within the grasp of a budding entrepreneur with limited capital.

The P15,000 franchise package, which SVFCI calls "Pangkabuhayan Package," contains a collapsible booth, a set of crew uniform, a tarpaulin signage and P500 worth of product vouchers. The package also includes training of the franchisee on how to handle the franchise.

"We teach our franchisees how to operate their business hands-on," Melano tells the INQUIRER in an interview. "They should know how to operate the business and when they have mastered the operation, they can get another franchise."

Aside from the P15,000 franchise fee, an additional investment, ranging from P5,000 to P15,000, is required for the necessary equipment of the business and another P2,000 to P10,000 for the inventory.

[Ed's note: These costs do not include the lease or rental fees of the location the franchisee will choose for the franchise.]

He recalled some of his friends' comments when he told them about his latest venture.

"My friends asked me 'Charlie, why is this franchise cheap?'" he says. "Some also asked if this (the franchise) is a scam [because of its low price]."

Melano says the company's primary goal is to create an entrepreneurial spirit among fresh graduates whose mind is set on employment, aside from employees who want to earn an extra peso to augment their salaries and even the unemployed.

"We created a P15,000 package because we believe that we can help many people develop an entrepreneurial mindset," Melano says.

What's good about their P15,000 package, Melano says, is the entrepreneur gets to hold on their earnings on a daily basis.

Melano used to work in an hotel in Saudi Arabia. For nine years, he worked his way up to become duty manager of Hotel Intercontinental in Riyadh. He decided to come back to his home to become an entrepreneur.

Pizzito
Melano

CHARLIE Melano gave up a job in the Middle East to be an entrepreneur. He set up Pizzito, which now has 400 branches.

In 2000, he ventured into the pizza business, which he named Pizzito Melano. He first sold pizza in Pasay City near the Jam transport terminal. Today, aside from being approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, Pizzito has over 400 branches nationwide

"At the end of the day, you get to see how much you've earned," he says. "For a P15,000 investment, you get to earn at least P2,000 a day, depending on the location. That's something else."

Melano observed that Filipinos in general are not the "risk-taker" type. He says some of today's entrepreneurs "do not try to innovate or reinvent their products or brands." But with the SVFCI's business packages, Melano believes that they have lessened the risk for budding entrepreneurs.

"This kind of business involves less risk because one only has to make a minimal investment [compared to other franchises]," he says. "Plus, this business is easy to operate and transfer when the business fails in a certain location."

The business packages they offer are mostly food products, ranging from shawarma, donuts, French fries, to fish balls, chicharon and goto.

"We initially offer food packages for franchising because the return of investment is high," Melano says. "But we are still developing our nonfood products."

(For inquiries, call SVFCI at 747-0268, 633-4504 or 6337079, or visit their website at www.svfci.com.ph/main)

Poor Asia-Pacific countries losing out to China

DESPITE TRADE EXPANSION, THE MOST vulnerable economies are being seriously challenged by their narrow range of exports amid strong competitiveness elsewhere.

The poorest countries of Asia-Pacific may have become keen globalizers but they are being out-competed and overwhelmed by exports from China, while deriving few benefits from selling their exports in the region's largest market, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) reported recently.

According to the newly released "Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2006," very open trade policies in the 14 poorest countries of the region have triggered a sharp increase in imports, resulting in serious adjustment issues for their economies and a drain on scarce foreign exchange resources. This often leads to severe problems of balance of payments, said the report, which was commissioned by UNDP.

These poor countries, known as least developed countries or LDCs, are losing significant revenue as they adjust to free trade. They will require fairer treatment by the global trade regime, redirected aid for trade and a wider range of exports in order to promote better lives for all, the report noted , which was developed by a team of experts from the region under the auspices of the UNDP Regional Center in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

While Asia-Pacific's poorest countries' import from China are large and account for more than 20 percent of all their imports, China's imports from them are extremely limited, at only about $300 million, the report stated. While China's overall trade with Asia-Pacific countries has grown rapidly and now accounts for most of its global trade, more than 75 percent of its trade in the region is with high-income nations such as Japan, the Republic of Korea or Singapore.

Severe challenges

The poorest countries of the region have limited scope for benefiting from the booming Chinese market, and the possibility exists that Chinese imports are displacing some domestic industries.

These LCD's, home to 260 million people, face severe challenges in poor infrastructure, a high degree of vulnerability to natural disasters, inadequate diversification of the economy, unsatisfactory health and education facilities, and generally low savings rates. Many of these poor countries are landlocked or small islands. Despite some human development improvements, the per-capita annual gross domestic product of Asia-Pacific's lowest-income nations was only $375 in 2003, less than half that of even other Asia-Pacific developing countries.

'Enclaves' of growth

Trade integration under the current global regime, as well as through the signing of a rapidly expanding number of bilateral and regional trade agreements, has resulted in an "enclave" growth pattern for the least developed countries, the report said—with certain sections of the economy gaining well but the vast majority continuing to be marginalized.

A number of poor Asia-Pacific countries have had problems implementing their WTO agreements, and many are opening up to rapidly proliferating regional and bilateral trade agreements, in part because they offer deeper and more immediate commercial benefits.

It is time, the report said, for poor Asia-Pacific countries' vulnerability to the costs of economic integration to be addressed by the international community. This can be achieved through allowing them broader special and differential trade treatment; duty-free access for certain goods, which is given to poor countries in other regions; and targeted aid for trade to build the capacity of developing-country officials to deal with trade issues and operate more effectively at global trade negotiations.

(The Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2006 entitled "Trade on Human Terms: Makatao pa ba? (Towards Making Do with International Trade to Serve the Poor)" will be presented on Aug. 17, 8 a.m. to 5p.m., at the assembly hall, National College of Public Administration in UP Diliman, Quezon City.)

Vegetarian food making good

By Madonna Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—WHILE fast-food joints draw a sizeable crowd, a vegetarian store here called Ima's Gulay Bar is keeping a good number of customers, many of whom have become the owners' friends, who want to maintain their health and are into environmental advocacy work.

The local store, which sits on a 50-sq.m. lot, is modest in size compared to the other stores in the area. But its owners have big dreams of educating as many people as possible on the merits of healthy eating.

"Many of the diseases nowadays are caused by wrong eating," says Thelma "Ima" Mendoza, 50, an athlete and a nurse by profession.

Her partner, Samuel Torreliza, originally from Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro, who does the carpentry work in the store, has developed his line of specialties such as wheat bread, soy milk, tofu and taho.

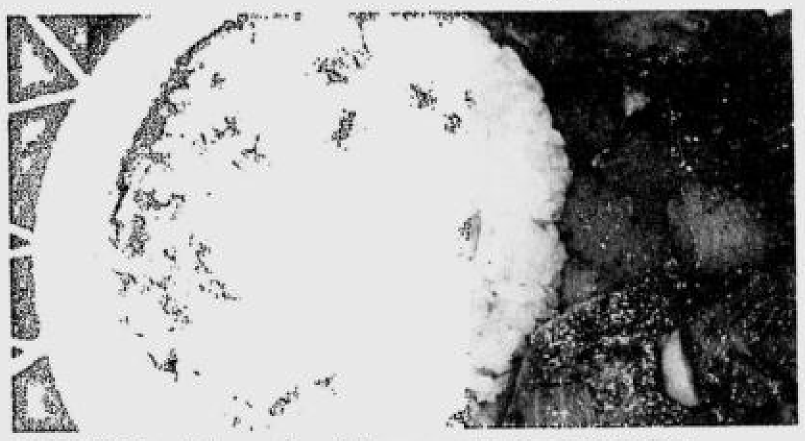
They may not be earning as much as the other commercial stores but they make it their business to share the alternative lifestyle they are already adopting.

Health foods

Foods cut fresh are low in sugar and salt.

"We allow the natural flavor of the food to come out and ensure the appropriate cooking time is observed," says Ima, who dropped her 13-year job as a nurse in the US to look after her two grown-up children.

It would help to have a happy and loving disposition while cooking to add to the food's taste, adds Ima, who showed her dancing movements that blend well with good cooking.



HEALTHY rice dishes such as dish are served at Ima's Gulay Bar

Ima's exposure to other countries, readings and flair for improvisation have produced an array of recipes, sans the meat of course.

These include soups, salads, rice dishes, side dishes, pasta, sandwiches, desserts, pizza and drinks such as hot and cold beverages, shakes and juices. Among the favorites of customers are Ima's original fajitas which consist of slices of gluten or vegemeat with spicy tomato salsa.

Clients also seek Ima's bean burrito, her own favorite while in the US, and veggie steak.

The "gulay bar's" pansit has more vegetables while the fruit shakes have more fruits and milk but with less sugar.

"Our regular customers don't even notice that we reduce the sugar as they frequent the place for health reasons," says Ima.

The partners prefer organically grown vegetables when marketing for ingredients.

Like home

Customers get to read materials on health hanging on the chairs while waiting to be served and getting a feel of a homey atmosphere with scarves arranged on the table, grass weavings on wall decors, soothing chimes overhead and dim bulb lights during evenings.

A small garden near the entrance door provides a cool backdrop for intimate conversations that usually veer to the unique foods served in the store.

The bar is open at 7 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. but the partners are willing to extend their hours if guests so wish.

Plans

Given proper facilities and equipment, Ima wants to produce other food items such as a vegetable-based soy sauce sans preservatives.

She also has the expertise in making cashew cheese, soy yoghurt, mayonnaise, soy butter and soy peanut.

"We also want a bigger library and have poetry reading here," says Ima.

From making friendship bands and taho when they first came to Palawan 10 years ago, Ima and Sam have fallen in love with the place where they are also able to pursue their passion for sports like tennis, mountaineering, jogging and other sports.

It has been a long way since vegetarian friends lent the partners a small amount in May 2003 so they could start Ima's Gulay Bar.

(Ima's Gulay Bar is located at 46-A Fernandez St. corner Petal near Kumon, the Adventist church and school. Orders through texting are accepted.)

Getting teens turned on to entrepreneurship

From page B2-1

ate a generation of young entrepreneurs, said Jose Pelaez, executive director of the Department of Education's Center for Students and Co-Curricular Affairs.

"Go Negosyo" is a business advocacy program developed by businessman Jose Concepcion III, presidential consultant for entrepreneurship and founding trustee of the Philippine Entrepreneurship Center.

This is the program's first attempt to train teen entrepreneurs.

Addressing the conference through a videotaped message, Concepcion, president and chief executive officer of RFM Corp., said businessmen want to change the youth's mindset because the future of Philippine business has become their responsibility.

Concepcion said these teenagers are the ideal generation for change because their "very nature of being passionate… and persistent" is the necessary ingredient for harnessing aggressive, yet conscientiously patriotic entrepreneurs.

Francis Kong, president of Business Matters Values Foundation, said the key to attracting that passion was to offer teenagers new heroes.

PHOTOS BY VINCENT CABREZA /NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

TO HIGH school participants of the Go Negosyo Teen Edition conference, motivational speaker and former Company B manager Francis Kong draws more attention even from a close circuit television screen, set side by side with glossy advertisements and huge government posters.

But the names most of the "Go Negosyo" lecturers offered to that list are predominantly of Chinese origin, whose lives share a "rags-to-riches" quality.

Kong, who founded the clothing firm Company B, said Sy started out selling shoes in Manila before he began investing in shopping malls later in his career, but his story echoes the history of most Chinese-Filipino businessmen who now top their respective trade.

Ferdinand "Chinkee" Tan, a former television actor who became a multilevel marketer, said the story is common because the Chinese people are spread out all over the world, "and where they end up, you will eventually find a Chinese restaurant because of hard work and perseverance."

"You can poke fun at our slanted eyes, but we'll always reply, 'laki naman kita (a play on words referring to profitability),'" Tan said.

He said Filipinos are following in their footsteps.

Most of these stories revealed successful businessmen who never finished school, a fact that raised questions from some participants.

Pam Aliping, a high school student from Baguio City, asked one of the speakers whether education was necessary, prompting the speaker to stress that a diploma still has value "in the real world."

Most of the participants were between 13 and 16 years old, and they come from public schools across the country.

TEENAGERS as young as 13 converge in Baguio to attend the first Go Negosyo conference designed exclusively for high school students.

Television host Bianca Gonzalez, who polled some of the students during a Thursday plenary session, discovered that many of them define businesses according to their appreciation of the branded products they buy.

The students who responded to the poll likewise expressed their interest in business as an opportunity to escape a life of poverty.

Adelaida Inton, executive director of the Philippine Trade Training Center, said Go Negosyo's agenda to "demystify" business for Filipino students assures the country a new pool of entrepreneurs.

Pelaez said most teenagers today could start small backyard trade, such as recycling.

But almost all of the "Go Negosyo" advocates said developing young businessmen would also guarantee that Filipino families would no longer be separated due to overseas employment.

"Many of you here are products of an OFW (overseas Filipino worker) parent," Tan said.

Building up small businesses in the country ensures that "your mothers will no longer have to leave home," he said.

Creating a new breed of marketing professionals

By Jerry Kliatchko
VP-Corporate Communications, UA & P

IN THE MODERN SETTING, THE power of an institution of higher learning lies mainly in its ability to produce graduates who will be almost immediately employable and, in time, rise to positions of leadership in business, government, public service, or the academe.

A university, especially at this time, must develop in their students a firm grasp of the basics of education, such as those you learn in the arts and the humanities, and at the same time, a facile command of the skills and discipline of a profession that will give them a competitive edge when they graduate.

The University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) educates our youth for immediate professional employment and for leadership positions. Our experience so far with the University's pioneering course, Integrated Marketing Communication, (IMC) proves this is a valid goal: It can be done.

The graduates of the IMC Program enjoy a high rate of employment after graduation due to the professional residency program in some of the country's major corporations, such as Unilever, Citibank, and in top advertising and communication agencies, including Publicis, Jimenez Basic, Lowe, Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, Starcom, and Arc Worldwide.

Many of IMC's alumni now occupy positions where they develop strategies for marketing products and services, spearhead consumer behavior research, and lead in the execution of successful marketing and promotions programs.

The IMC program, a five-year program that leads to both a bachelor's and master's degree, is able to produce employable and high-achievement graduates on the strength of the curriculum and the quality of instruction and training that they receive both on campus, and in their last (fifth) year off-campus.

The off-campus hands-on training, called the professional residency program, is spent at a major corporation where they work as a member of a business unit, learning but, at the same time, made accountable for the quality of their work.

The IMC offering is a rigorous highly competitive program where only a small percentage of enrollees get accepted into the program. Out of the 70 or 80 who would qualify to enter, less than 20 would qualify all the way to the 5th year master's program. Majority graduate after the 4th year.

Since we started to offer the course in 1999, we have graduated only around 150, almost all of whom now hold important positions in business here and abroad.

The course offerings include communication, operations management, research, marketing management, advertising agency management, creative strategy, copywriting and public relations.

IMC is the only communication school in the country that offers finance and accounting as part of the course.

We are doing this precisely to correct an imbalance that we have noted in the traditional communications courses where there is a strong dosage of communication theory, but a woeful gap on the numbers side in finance and accounting.

We have observed in our work with marketing and advertising professionals, many of whom have degrees in communication, journalism or economics, that while they are competent, sometimes, even excellent, in the creative arts, they are wanting in know-how in accounting and finance, without which any career in business, let alone leadership, is hardly possible.

On the other hand, many of those who excel in the strictly business side of things, such as those in operations or finance, lack communications skills, or at least the kind that we expect from managers and leaders of organizations today.

Our IMC course creates the bridge that enhances these two complementary competencies. Our brand of marketing communications strikes the critical balance between communications and business.

The Professional Residency Program that IMC students take in their fifth year immerses them in a real business setting for 10 months. That's why it is called "residency" instead of "internship". Student residents are assigned to IMC Program's partner companies where they are expected to perform as members of a working team. Among UA&P IMC's partner companies are Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, Dentsu Philippines, Lowe, Publicis, Starcom, EON, Jimenez Basic, Universal Robina Corporation, Pilipinas Shell, Nestle, Johnson & Johnson, Unilever, and Citibank.

Some of our partner firms in the IMC program place their orders, so to speak, for our students to join them when they graduate. One such large company has a standing order for five graduates.

Another strength of our IMC program is that a number of our faculty members are active practicing professionals and leaders in business, marketing, and advertising. Either they teach on a part-time basis or deliver lectures, or counsel our regular faculty and students on occasion. These include JJ Calero, former chairman of JWT; Nanette F. Diyco of the Ateneo de Manila University; Ichay Bulaong of Arc Worldwide; Paolo Mercado of Publicis Manila; Jimmy Puno formerly of Dentsu Young & Rubicam; Lizelle Maralag of Starcom, RJ Esteban and Menchu Esteban of the Philippine Survey and Research Center.

Our University is the only one offering a complete graduate program on Integrated Marketing Communications in the whole of Asia. We are planning to enter into alliances and partnerships here and abroad to further strengthen our program.

'Is there a CD ...

From page B2-4

based and marketing myth-free mindset:

It makes more marketing sense to completely stop thinking that a product category is an AB upscale market or a downscale market. All four SEC segments have even and uneven category market participation. But they are all in any category.

There's "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" about this marketing myth that you've allowed yourself to dominate your marketing practice.

We encourage you to think about this and decide to take immediate departure from any denial response that you may be tempted to take. Complement your field feedback information with the more scientific consumer coping behavior survey data we've briefly illustrated.

Our research technique used a consumer and market survey model that's proving to be robust. We've been able to just as insightfully apply this consumer survey model at the brand, not just in the product category level.

It's a market research technique that is practical and simple for providing you insights into market opportunities and market threat forces excellent for uncovering practical leads and directions in growing your category business.

Dr Ned's Consumer Behavior Conference featuring the results of his 2006 Consumer Coping Survey results will be presented this month. Call 813-2732/03 for details. Send questions to us MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412 . God bless!

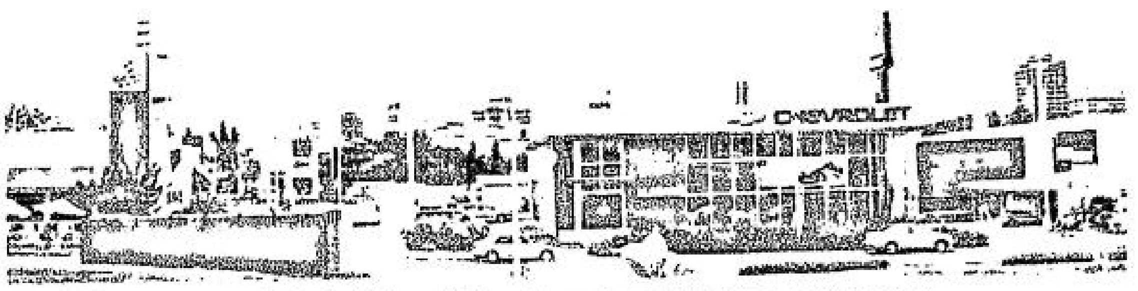
Selling to consumers in 'malls without walls'

SIGNAGES AND PROMOTIONAL collaterals are attracting buyers through a new consumer marketing concept that is redefining and redesigning the country's commercial landscape.

This development has spawned "malls without walls," or lifestyle centers that give shoppers more freedom of movement in a themed, community-like environment.

This "unwalled city" that depicts the now "borderless global market" poses a challenge to property developers on how the product signages and marketing collaterals of retailers can be integrated in the overall design concept without clutter, which normally happens in malls and tiangges.

The answer to this challenge is the rise of planned, integrated themed commercial developments on a vast open expanse that can also serve as a city center.



ONSITE consumer marketing is taking a big turn towards a nature-biased environment.

Such is the case of Westgate Alabang, located in the heart of Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Westgate Alabang has taken the lifestyle center concept a step further by acting as a city center for various community functions and activities other than shopping.

Because of its ample space Westgate serves as a perfect venue for corporate activities, outdoor exhibits, sports, concerts and other local affairs and special events.

While customers from the surrounding offices and residential communities of Filinvest Corporate City account for the bulk of Westgate's regular captive market, many also come from various parts of Muntinlupa and nearby Las Piñas and Parañaque cities and Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and other provinces in the South, and still counting.

With this development, onsite consumer marketing is taking a big turn towards a nature-biased environment.

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To date, Robinsons Land Corporation has produced 18 shopping malls, 4 office buildings, 14 housing developments, 12 commercial buildings and various hotels such as Holiday Inn Galleria Manila and Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila (managed by the InterContinental Hotels Group), Cebu Midtown Hotel and Robinsons Apartelle.

Regionally, JG Summit - the holdings company of Robinsons Land Corporation - has a significant stake in United Industrial Corporation Ltd., a majority stockholder of Marina Center Holdings and Singapore Land Limited (a major land holdings company in Singapore).

Each and every project of Robinsons Land Corporation has led to the rise of thriving, profitable communities, in line with JG Summit's vision to make life better for the Filipino nation.

Robinsons Land Corporation.
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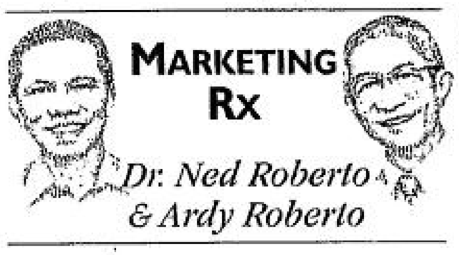
JG SUMMIT
HOLDINGS, INC.
FIFTY YEARS

'Is there a CD market for AB products?'



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

ONE OF THE GUESTS at the ACTMedia sponsored preview of our Consumer Coping Behavior research results asked us this interesting question that we think would benefit our readers.

Q: One of the products we've been successful in marketing is a ready-to-drink (RTD) fruit juice in Tetrapak. Every year, we've planned the marketing program for our RTD juice knowing that it's definitely into an AB and probably an upscale C market. Two year ago, we decided to tap the broad C and D market segments. Field feedback told us that we've not been successful at all.

Your consumer coping survey results said something like "there's no such thing as a product category that's an AB market or one that's an upscale C market." You claimed that your data showed all socio-economic class consumers are in almost all consumer product categories.

If this is true, then you must know something about our RTD juice category that we don't. Does your body of evidence (research data) include our product category? And can you please explain how this can happen or has happened. Without much success, we've been trying for the past two years to extend the market reach of our Tetrapak juice beyond its current AB and upscale C market segments.

A: We believe your confusion comes from the "body of evidence" that you've used to conclude that your RTD juice is "definitely into an AB and probably an upscale C market." You mentioned that your basis for this conclusion is "field feedback" data. Those field feedback data do not qualify as valid scientific market information. They are limited to what are available to your field people's direct observation. They are therefore incomplete and biased. They are also largely anecdotal. Accumulating anecdotal evidence rarely constitute valid scientific market research evidence.

Discipline of data collection

Ours is a set of data that comes from a scientifically valid market survey. This is not boasting; it's a simple statement of fact. Our consumer behavior data are valid in the two senses of research validity. They are first of all "internally valid." This means that our data "measured what was intended to be measured." Our consumer coping behavior survey measured the extent of consumer non-buying or buying behavior for 103 product categories including your RTD fruit juice category. Among those buying, it measured these category users' "maintained buying and lapse buying behavior including their economizing, substituting as well as more buying behavior."

Our survey is internally valid because: (1) it successfully sourced its data from the survey's target 400 Metro Manila respondents, namely, housewives who are 18-80 years old, across all four socio-eco classes; and (2) it pretested its survey questionnaire and revised this accordingly so that it was certain that its questionnaire items purporting to measure use and non-use, maintenance buying, lapse buying, and so on were indeed measuring these behaviors and not some others.

Secondly, our survey has "external validity." Survey data are externally valid if they measure what's true of the total population of target consumers. This depends on two things. First, your survey must have sampled its respondents from a representative "sampling frame," i.e., a representative list of your target consumer respondents or their barangays (villages), then their households within a sampled barangay, and then the eligible household members within a sampled household.

Next, your sampling of the qualified consumer respondents must have been done via a statistically random process of selecting from among the qualified consumer respondents, i.e., each barangay in your barangay sampling frame, each household in your household sampling frame within a sampled barangay, and each qualified consumer respondent within a sampled household has an equal chance of being selected.

We have gone into these details to make clear the difference in validity between your field feedback data and a scientific market research data. The former has biased and nonprojectable data. The latter, unbiased and projectable.

We also need these differentiating details to lend credibility and scientific character to what you said you heard about our survey conclusions. That especially refers to our saying that: (1) "there's no such thing as a product category that's an AB market or one that's an upscale C market," and (2) "that all socioeconomic class consumers are in almost all consumer product categories."

Debunking AB-class-only myth

Our consumer coping behavior data has in fact debunked this popular marketing "myth" about product categories that are an AB upscale market or a C midscale market or a D borderline poor market or an E extreme poor market. Our survey data showed that in practically all of the 103 product categories studied, consumers from all four SECs participated in its purchase and usage.

What many of us, for example, assumed as an AB market category turned out to be a category that a good number or just as many D and E consumers have been and are buying and using. This was the case for your RTD fruit juice category. For example, consider the percent of socioeconomic class (SEC) category consumers who maintained this product in their budget. We referred to these consumers as making up the "category maintainer segment." There are among the extreme poor E category consumers, 36 percent who are "maintainers." The ratios for the other three SECs are as follows: among the borderline poor D category consumers, 47 percent; among the midscale Class C consumers, 65 percent; and among the rich Class AB consumers, 67 percent.

There are also "category lapse users" (or the percent of category users who dropped RTD juice from their shopping budget). Among the extreme poor Class E consumers, 42 percent are "lapse users." For the rest of the three SECs, the percentages are these: among the borderline poor Class D consumers, 38 percent; among the midscale Class C consumers, 18 percent; and among the rich Class AB consumers, 9 percent.

Then there are those consumers who have ever tried RTD juice, the category "trial buyers." These are RTD juice consumers who have been made to try RTD juice at one time or another. Among the extreme poor Class E consumers, 82 percent have ever tried RTD juice. For the rest of the three SECs, the percentages are: among the borderline poor Class D consumers, 91 percent; among the midscale Class C consumers, 97 percent; and among the rich AB consumers, 94 percent. In other words, everyone—rich, middle class, borderline poor, and even extreme poor—has been an RTD juice trier.

Our survey data from the 2001 survey wave give us an insight on the rate of conversion of RTD juice nondrinkers into trial drinkers. By SEC, these conversion rates were:

Among the extreme poor E category potential drinkers: from 60 percent category triers in 2001 to 82 percent in 2006 or 22 percentage points of conversions. That's an average of 4.4 percent per year conversion rate.

Among the borderline poor D category potential drinkers: from 60 percent in 2001 to 91 percent in 2006 or 31 percentage points of conversions. That's an average of 6.2 percent per year conversion rate or about 41 percent more than the E's per year conversions rate.

Among the middle class C category potential drinkers: from 70 percent in 2001 to 97 percent in 2006 or 27 percentage points of conversions. That's a per year average of 5.4 percent conversion rate.

Among the upscale AB category potential drinkers: from 74 percent in 2001 to 94 percent in 2006 or 20 percentage points of conversions. It's an annual average of 4 percent conversion rate.

So over the past five years, the borderline poor D consumers were in fact your most trial-user ready market segment. Second is the midscale C consumers; third is the extreme poor E consumers. And look who's last and in the lowest level: your upscale AB consumers!

Breaking SEC barrier

Our survey data conclusively showed that this "market reality" happens to also hold true with other product categories that marketers have assumed are AB markets.

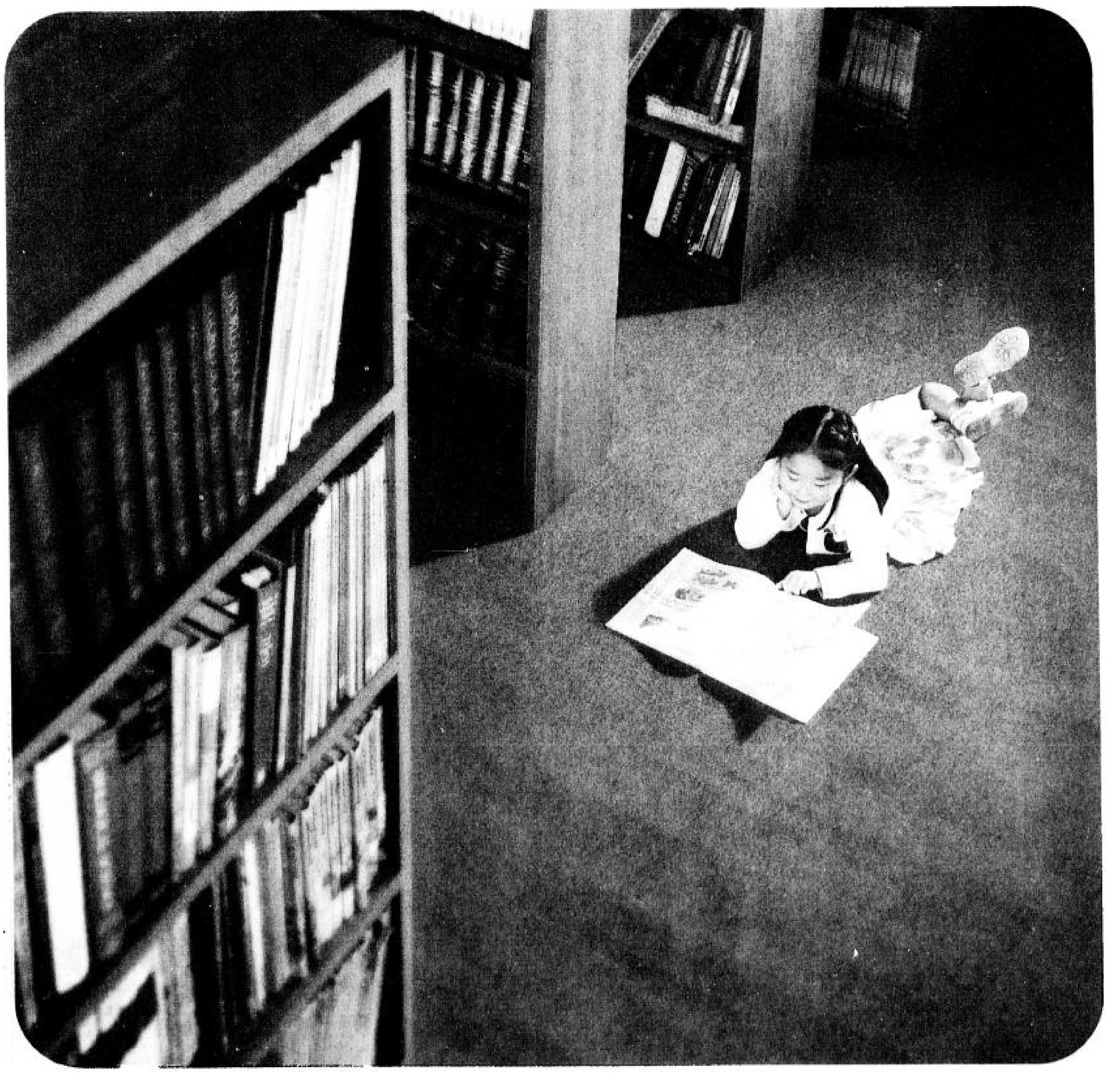
These other categories include infant formula, bottled water from supermarkets, breakfast cereal, panty liner, disposable diaper, jewelries, cellular phone subscription, and even internet subscription. Yes Virginia, some extreme poor are cellular phone and internet subscribers! We'll reserve profiling these for a later column.

Our survey data on the flipside belief about categories that are a D market or an E market indicated similar all-SEC segment participation.

Though much fewer, product categories that misguided marketers often speak of as a D or an E market include packaged instant noodles, condensed milk, and pirated VCD/DVD. Our consumer coping survey data told us that a good number or just as many AB and C consumers have and are buying and using these categories.

So the key and useful GMP (good marketing practice or maybe "great" marketing practice) that logically flows from these persistent survey results encourages you to take on this more reality-

IS THERE/ B2-3



WE HELP EMPOWER THE
FILIPINO MIND.

GOKONGWEI
BROTHERS
FOUNDATION

Born from JG Summit's commitment to social responsibility, the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation was set up in 1992 to help uplift the socio-economic condition of Filipinos through the funding of educational projects.

The first of these was the P100 million Technical Training Center in Rosario, Pasig, a masteral school for skilled graduates in various engineering fields. A significant endowment by the foundation to the Ateneo de Manila University then led to the John Gokongwei School of Management (JGSOM), a regional powerhouse in the field of management education. It has also aggressively donated facilities and scholarships, and supported educational programs to help train our next generation of business and government leaders in schools such as Immaculate Concepcion Academy, Xavier School, De La Salle University, the University Of Asia & The Pacific and the University of San Carlos.

Recently, the foundation has empowered many educationally-disadvantaged children through The Children's Library. This program makes available books, multi-media equipment, and educational activities in various public libraries in Metro Manila. It even donated its prime lot in Ortigas for the EDSA Shrine.

Through the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation's continuing commitment to education, JG Summit intends to fulfill its responsibility to the country - and lead Filipinos to an even better life ahead.

Gokongwei Brothers Foundation.
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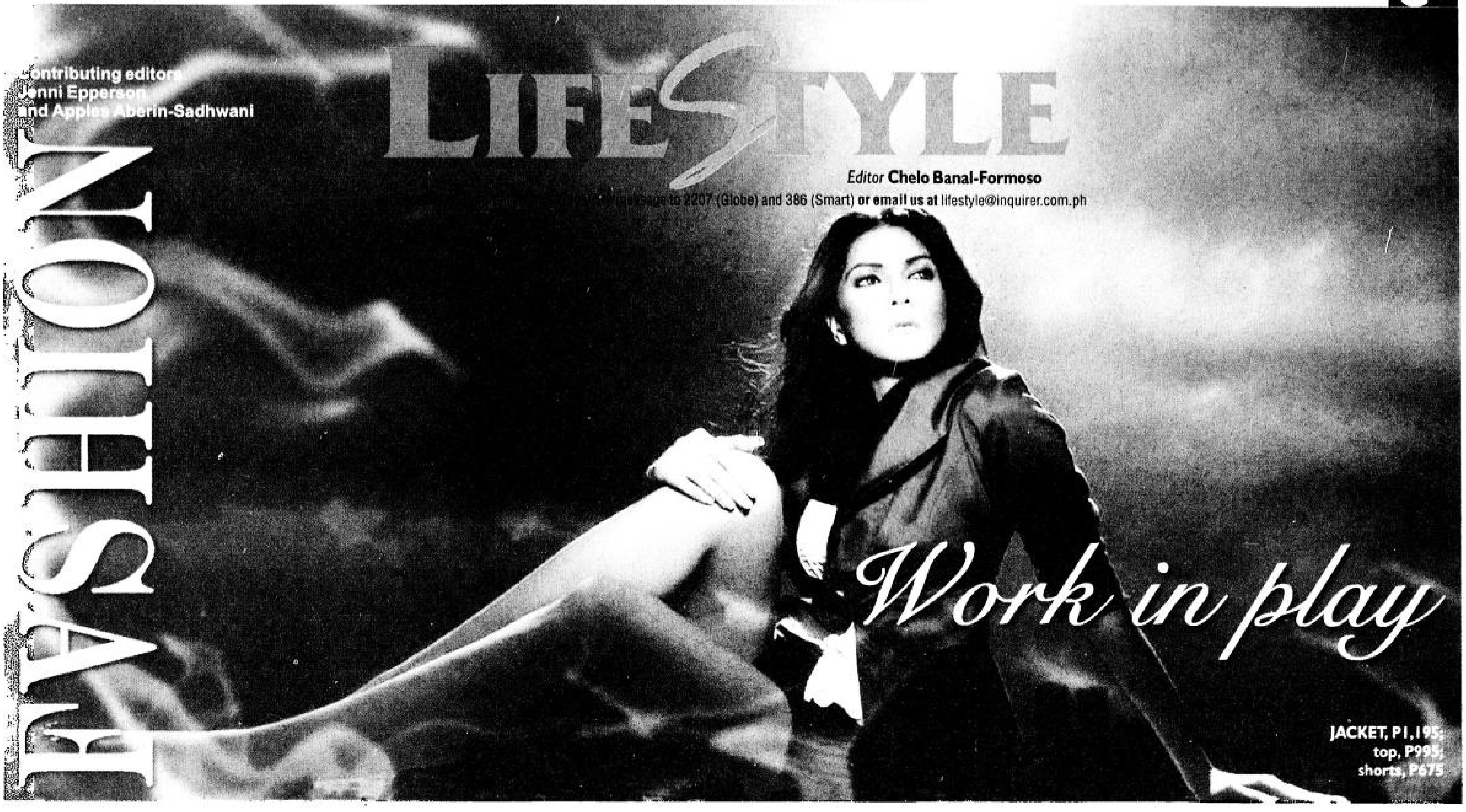
LIFESTYLE
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Contributing editors Jenni Epperson and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION



Work in play

JACKET, P1,195; top, P995; shorts, P675

Ready to wear, ready to work

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

THE WOMAN OF TODAY? She's conquered nearly every corner of the globe. She's the apple of Daddy and *Kuya* and *Lolo*'s eyes. The undisputed confidante of friends and life of the party! And in the workplace, she's well on her way to conquering the corporate ladder.

In today's overly fast-paced world, it is nearly impossible to have custom-made work attire, what with a family to take care of, friends who make *tampo* for not spending time with them, and a boss who works you to the ground. As the cliché goes, "too much to do, too little time." When it comes to bundy-clock bondage attire, ready-to-wear is a wise choice.

So, God bless Ensembles for being the career woman's salvation with its fashionable and stylish everyday office attires. With pieces you can put together faster than the second snooze ring, Ensembles allows you to sashay into your office without people saying, *"mahangin ba sa labas?"*

God bless Ensembles for being the career woman's salvation with its fashionable and stylish everyday office attires

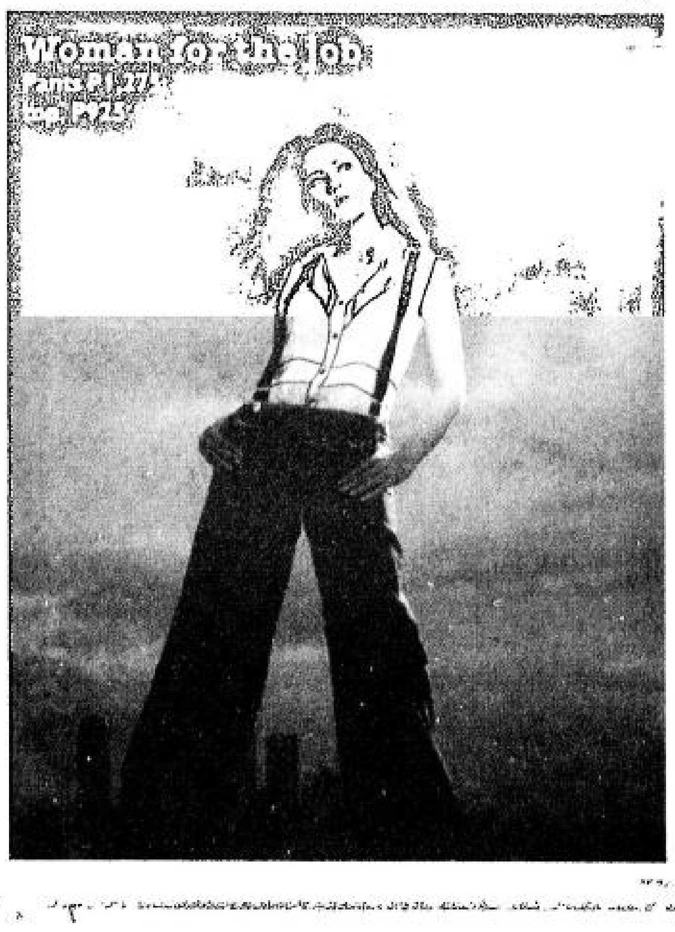
These rainy days, brighten up your nimbus cubicle with pieces that say "I'm Superwoman, I'm on top of my game and I don't care how tired I am, I still look fabulous!"

It is refreshing to see that Ensembles' concept of power dressing no longer consists of the very butch and masculine suits of yesteryear. Its silhouettes are feminine, soft and slouchy with subtle touches of tailoring. It has keep the in-season cropped jackets, pinstriped trousers and white with black top-stitched pants. The look is romantic and innocent Victorian with touches of black lace, chiffon and eyelets. The colors are back-to-basic black and white, but with red touches that keep it from being back-to-boring.

The message is you don't have to look like a man to be a strong woman. You can still look feminine, yet have commanding presence.

As with its change in fashion direction,

READY/C2



Woman for the job

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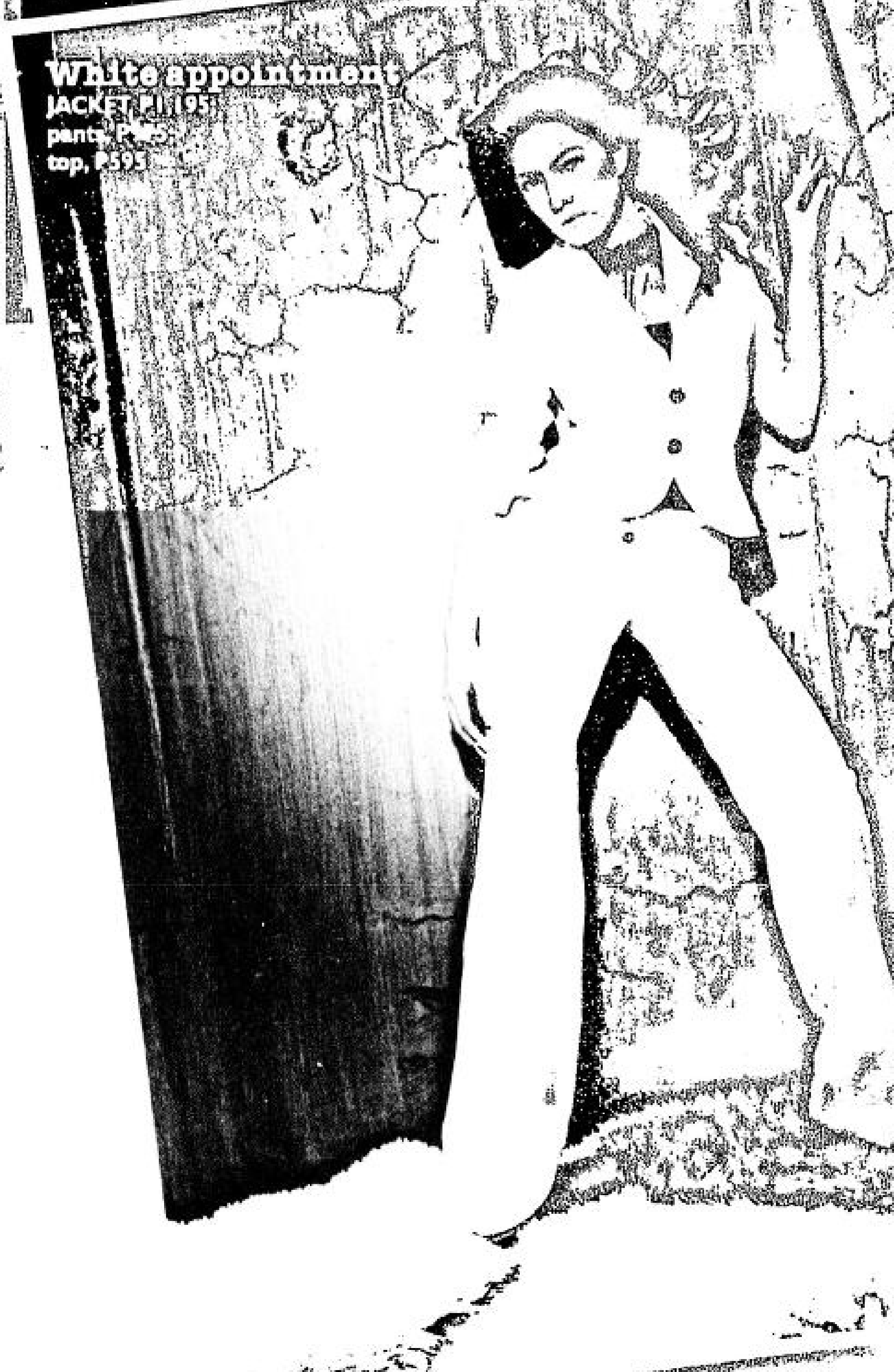


White appointment
JACKET P1,195;
pants, P[illegible]
top, P595

PHOTOGRAPHY XANDER ANGELES OF EDGE OF LIGHT
CLOTHES ENSEMBLES

ready to work

Work it baby!
Top, P995;
leggings, P575

From page C1

Ensembles stores are getting a facelift as well. The relocated store on the second level of SM Megamall Building A has also gone through a back-to-basic look, with cleaner color palettes similar to that of a tropical spa. This makes your shopping experience a welcome break from your otherwise harried life!

And the changes keep on coming, this time in the label's face. Carmina Villaroel is the new image model of Ensembles.

From child commercial star (Jollibee) to prime-time television actress ("Palibhasa Lalake," "Tropang Trumpo" and now host of "Sis"), and devoted and dedicated mother, Carmina is a woman in flux.

The numerous changes in her life have made her who she is today: a woman who accepts change graciously and doesn't take life too seriously. She's in charge of her career, in control of her life and in love with her family. And like Superwoman, she balances her flourishing career and her family life so well that you wonder, "how can she do what she does and still look beautiful?"

Add these all up with her sense of humor and personal style, and it is no surprise that Carmina Villaroel is the new Ensembles image model.

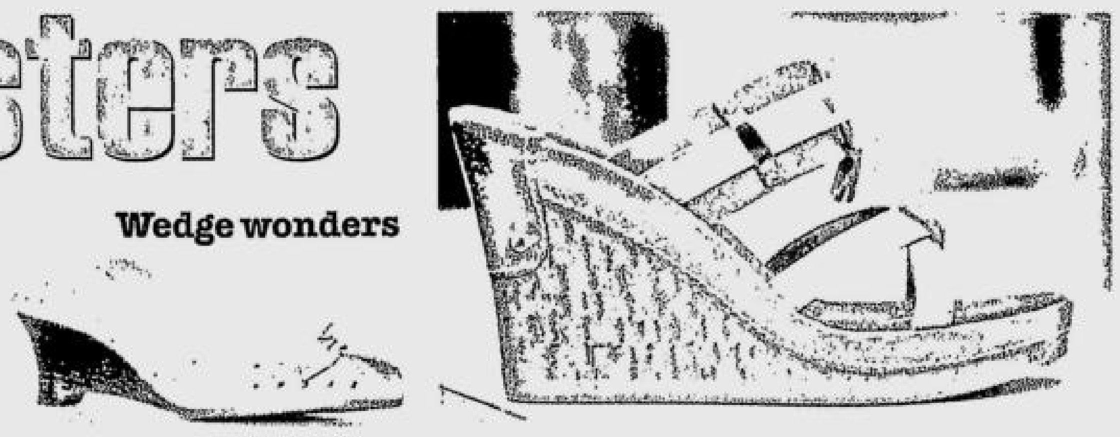
Carmina and Ensembles speak to the woman of today. She needs to be up and ready now, now, now. She's got places to go, people to be with and worlds to conquer. Ensembles' new collection brings new meaning to RTW for the modern woman by helping her be up and ready now, now, now.

Email the author jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

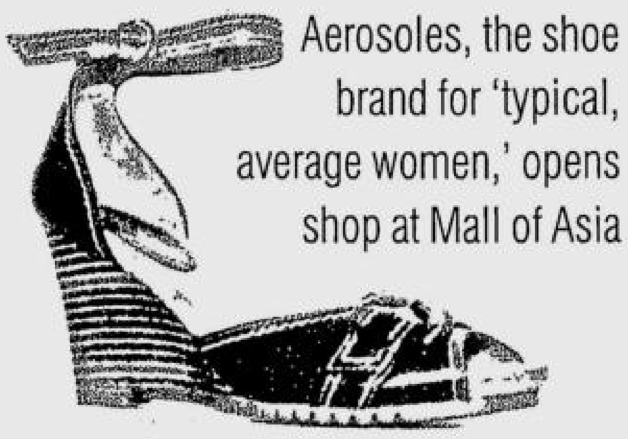
Ballet flats

Black beauties

Sole sisters



Wedge wonders



Aerosoles, the shoe brand for 'typical, average women,' opens shop at Mall of Asia

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

NADJIE VELUZ ABUEG IS A petite fiftysomething woman, barely 5 feet tall. But with her mass of wavy mane and colorful outfit of banana-fiber wrap top, stylized sarong skirt and bold bead necklace, one had to be blind not to take notice.

You had to wonder, however, if she was somehow out of place in the frenzied mass.

The event was the store opening of Aerosoles' first local freestanding shop at the SM Mall of Asia. The American shoe brand, of course, has a tradition of creating women's shoes that are best known for comfort—the key word being comfort. Not exactly the brand you expect a woman with a distinct sense of style, like Abueg, would go for.

"I used to think the styles were conservative," Abueg said. "But in the past two years, I've observed that they've gotten trendy."

That was when she started buying from Aerosoles at Rustan's. At the store opening in Mall of Asia, Abueg was one of the 20 or so loyal customers invited by the brand to model its collection. She wore low-heeled sandals with asymmetric straps.

"I work in insurance so I do a lot of walking," Abueg shared. "I need to be comfortable. But I can't wear flats because I'm short and I don't have long legs. I need a little height."

Cindy Clavecillas, 30, herself has amassed some 25 pairs from Aerosoles since she discovered the brand five years ago. She works in sales and, like Abueg, does a lot of walking.

"I check [the stores] for new styles every week!" she said, laughing. (New styles are brought in every one to two weeks.) For the show, she was shod in a pair of pale-pink peep-toe pumps with stacked heels.

Johanna Lobaton, Aerosoles' brand manager, said she invited "typical, average women" to showcase the shoes instead of professional models because she felt "customers will be able to relate better to them."

Real shoppers

As store launches go, the affair was well-attended, but not by mere kibitzers, apparently. They were real shoppers, judging from the long queue at the lone checkout counter. The modest-sized shop was packed with mostly middle-aged women, some with young children in tow, trying on shoes. The core market of the brand is the 33-and-above age segment. These are women who buy every two to six weeks, Lobaton said.

Lately, the brand has also attracted the 18-and-up crowd, owing to mothers who come in to shop with their daughters. Consequently, Lobaton decided to bring in brightly colored wedges and trendier flats for this segment.

Aerosoles was brought in by Rustan's five years ago, its shoes displayed alongside other brands on a single table in the shoe section. When the brand underwent an image update in 2004, with "style and comfort" as its pitch, the department store relaunched Aerosoles with its own "image area" and a bigger collection. Rustan's now carries the brand in six of its branches from Makati to Cebu.

As it turned out, the tastes of its loyal following have also evolved, according to Lobaton.

"Take, for example, the corporate pumps that we sell. What is selling are those with more details and ornamentation, or [those with] different treatments as against the plain, simple pumps."

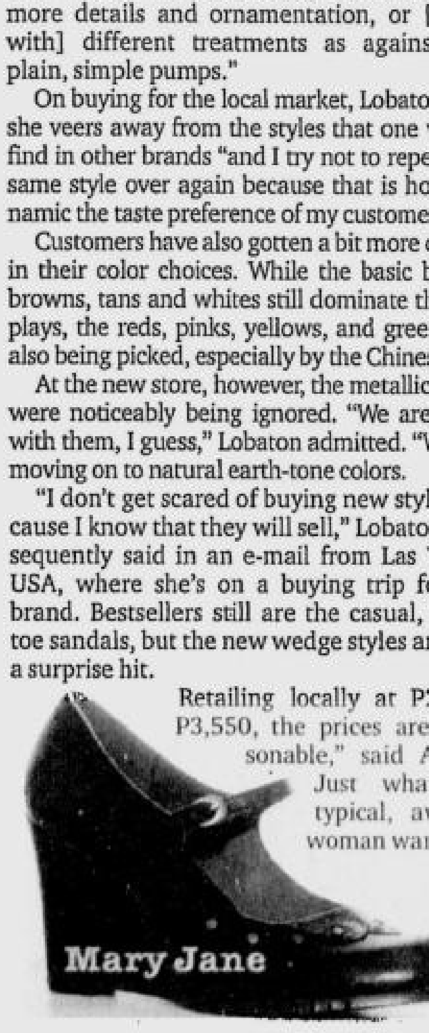
On buying for the local market, Lobaton said she veers away from the styles that one would find in other brands "and I try not to repeat the same style over again because that is how dynamic the taste preference of my customers."

Customers have also gotten a bit more daring in their color choices. While the basic blacks, browns, tans and whites still dominate the displays, the reds, pinks, yellows, and greens are also being picked, especially by the Chinese.

At the new store, however, the metallic styles were noticeably being ignored. "We are done with them, I guess," Lobaton admitted. "We are moving on to natural earth-tone colors.

"I don't get scared of buying new styles because I know that they will sell," Lobaton subsequently said in an e-mail from Las Vegas, USA, where she's on a buying trip for the brand. Bestsellers still are the casual, open-toe sandals, but the new wedge styles are also a surprise hit.

Retailing locally at P2,650-P3,550, the prices are "reasonable," said Abueg. Just what the typical, average woman wants.



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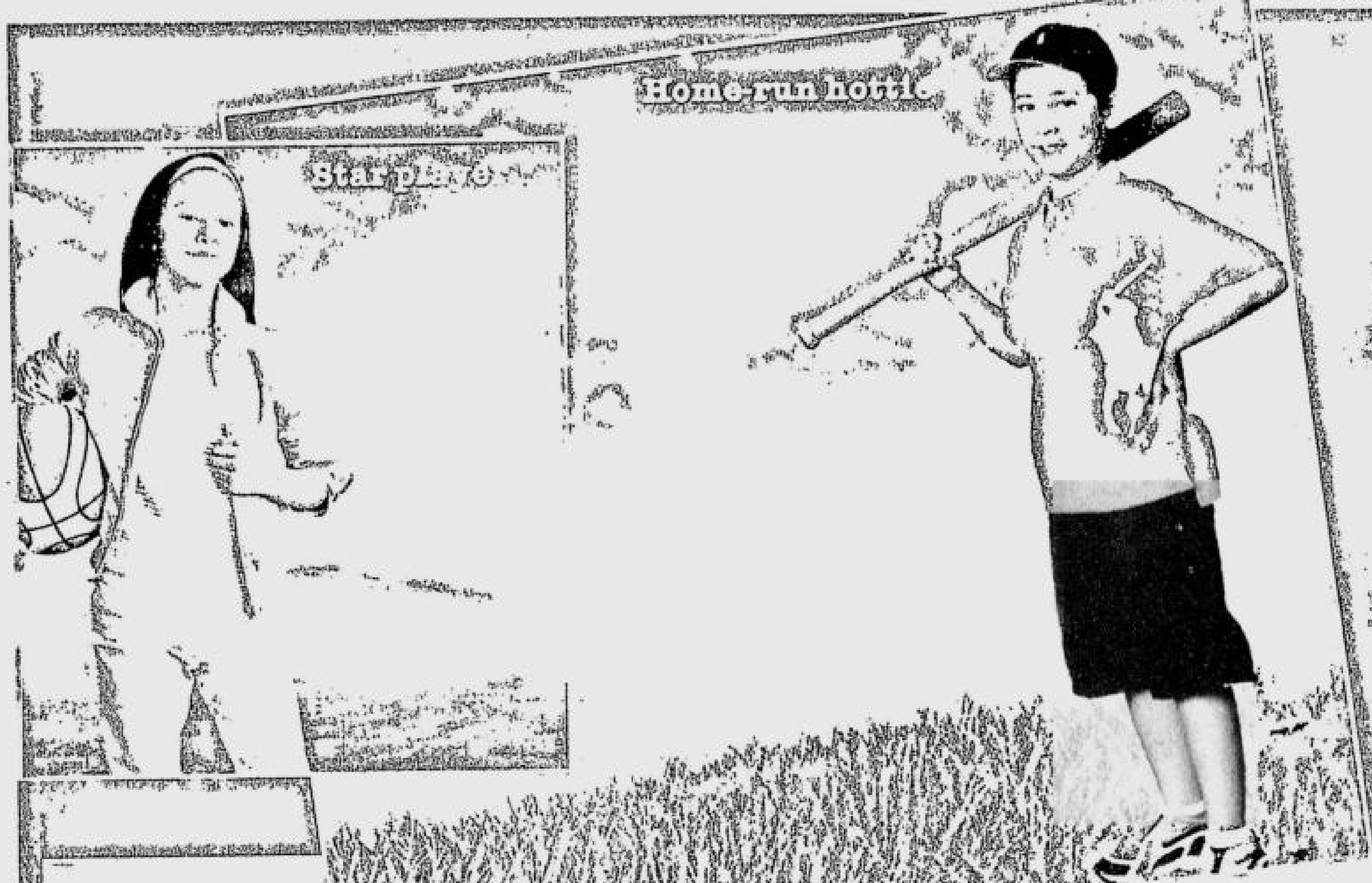

Fairway champ

Child's play

NOWADAYS, YOUR PLAYground princesses and minijocks can look fashionable and stay comfortable while pursuing their favorite activities. Just as you make an effort to look and feel great in the gym, tennis court or golf course, your little ones can also dress in stylish sports wear.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Function follows form in this case, so the choice of fabric is the most major consideration. Hundred-percent cotton is always a safe bet, as it's a natural, breathable fabric that's cool, soft and comfortable. It allows for circulation because it absorbs and releases perspiration quickly. It's also easy to care for and wears well, making it perfect for your little bundles of adrenaline.

It's also important to remember that outdoor play can be downright hazardous. A little practicality and common sense will go a long way in keeping your children out of harm's way. Save the ruffles, lace and extra details for more dressy affairs. Excess fabric can easily snag on playground equipment and can create running hazards. For outdoor play and sports activities, keep clothing as fuss-free as possible.

That said, you can now add a bit of flair to your children's getups through your choice and combination of colors, silhouettes and styles.

Signature pique shirts in playful shades of blue, purple, aqua, cream and white or colorful stripes are staples in every young athlete's wardrobe. Mix and match them with basic jeans, khakis, cargos, shorts or pleated skirt.

Your little angels will also look adorable in functional but cute accessories such as wrap headbands and contrasting grosgrain belts. Stylish visors or cool caps are vital for sun protection. And when it starts to get windy and rainy in the active outdoors, they can simply zip up a sweater or trainer in cool colorful shades.

Your little ones don't have to sacrifice comfort for style. With a bit of imagination and a little common sense, they can look like mini fashion plates while running and jumping around to their hearts' content.

Check out Ralph Lauren Children's Wear for fashionable but child-friendly apparel. Ralph Lauren Children's Wear is exclusively distributed by Store Specialists Inc., and is available at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Tower, Shangri La Plaza Mall.

Email the author afashion@inquirer.com.ph

For kids
outdoor play
and sports
activities
keep clothing
as fuss-free
as possible

Sweeet tandem

Mixing business with pleasure

ON Mike, Raphael and Mikee: Jacket, P3,299.75, shirt, P899.75, and pants, P699.75

There are ways to transform your corporate attire into after-six play outfits with minimum fuss

By Alex Y. Vergara

MEN'S WORK WEAR NEED not be confined exclusively to the office. Take it from men's wear designer Anthony Nocom: There are quite a number of subtle ways to transform your corporate attire into after-six play outfits without you wasting precious time and gas.

"You don't have to drive all the way home to change clothes," says Nocom. "All it takes is a little effort and some imagination to transform your look from day to night."

You can start by ditching the standard wool or tweed jacket in favor of one made of rich, dark denim. Nocom offers a number of tapered denim suits (pants are optional) that look good enough both for business and pleasure.

Unlike the traditional FPJ-style stonewashed denim jacket studded with metal buttons and rivets, Nocom's version simulates the shape of a formal dinner jacket minus the stuffy air that usually goes with it. Since none of the fabrics are stonewashed, the jackets with subtle topstitching are soft, dark and luxurious enough to look good either with a tie or buttoned-down shirt.

"It really depends on how a jacket is constructed," he says. "My denim jackets are still structured, but the lining is limited under the back to make them look and feel less formal. I also went for minimal padding for a more relaxed silhouette."

If the occasion requires you to wear a formal suit (the client presentation or board meeting comes to mind), don't despair. You can still tweak your look as day turns to night by wearing, say, a different shirt underneath or a flashy belt that spells casual.

If you're in a habit of carrying an extra pair of shoes in your car, make sure they're comfortable and stylish enough to last you through the night.

If you feel you can get away with a pair of Chuck Taylors or Jack Purcells, then don't let tradition stop you. Fashion has become more forgiving to the weekday warrior out to have a much-needed R&R on a Friday night.

"Two of the most practical ways to dress down is to remove your tie and unbutton your collar," says Nocom. "Instead of a dress shirt, you can wear a bright or printed shirt under the jacket."

Even tennis shirts à la Lacoste in such bright shades as canary yellow, hot pink, lime green and orange manage to achieve an air of sophistication when paired with a formal jacket, Nocom adds. Strong shades also act as an ideal foil to an otherwise stiff navy blue or gray jacket.

Unusual colors

As such, Nocom will soon offer a range of polo shirts in "unusual" (by mass market standards, anyway) colors such as teal, lime green, peach and cranberry. His pink and moss-green tops have surprisingly been doing very well.

"It's a misconception," he observes, "but based on my experience, real men don't really have any issues when it comes to wearing pink."

These attractive tints will complement his existing pieces in white, black and beige. But neutral shades, he insists, need not look boring. They can achieve the much-needed oomph via a splash of prints or a hint of texture.

A number of Nocom's black shirts, for instance, are spruced up either with horizontal or chevron (diagonal) stripes in white, rust, mustard and brown. Unlike the run-of-the-mill stripes, however, those found on his shirts are tactile because of his use of a felt-like material.

"Since most Filipino men are still conservative when it comes to clothes, most of them will always go for white shirts," he says. "What's amazing is a growing number of men are now willing to try tops in bright colors or with graphic prints."

Not a few Filipinos have also become bolder when it comes to wearing shirts with tapered silhouettes and pants with flat fronts. It took several fashion seasons for Nocom's customers to warm up to the latter. He attributes such openness to the unprecedented information explosion.

"Boy, will they be in for a surprise," he says, with a wink. "Just as they're beginning to feel comfortable in flat-front pants, pleated pants are back and are bound to be big next year."

Indeed, what goes around comes around. But despite fashion's fickle nature, many men are becoming more adept at keeping up to speed with trends and mixing work with play, business with pleasure.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY
CHITO VECINA (0917-8554195)
CLOTHES
ANTHONY NOCOM FOR SM
GROOMING MARLON SUAREZ
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MODELS
MIKEE CARREON,
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SHOT ON LOCATION
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BALENO pink shirt, P299.75, 96 North taupe pants, P349.75, fatigue shirt, P699.75, Baleno lime-green shirt, P299.75, 96 North red pants, P349.75, Baleno peach shirt, P299.75, 96 North white pants, P349.75

SM Exclusives paisley shirt, P349.75, white knit shirt, P549.75, 96 North dark blue pants, P349.75, SM Exclusives paisley shirt, P399.75, black pants, P699.75. Denim suits will be available by October.

JACKET, P3,299.75, shirt, P849.75

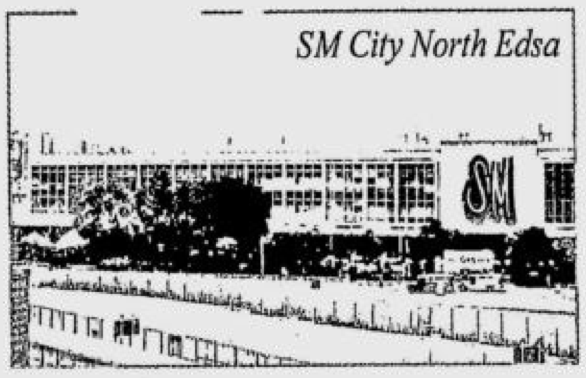
DOVE-GRAY jacket, P1,299.75, shirt, P899.75, pants, P699.75

SHIRT, P899.75, pants, P699.75, jacket, P3,299.75

BALENO denim jacket, P499.75, shirt, P899.75, light-blue shirt, P699.75, pants, P699.75, navy-blue shirt, P699.75, Baleno jeans, P349.75

SM city shoppers go north for super savings

A shower of big savings and exciting raffle prizes await shoppers at SM City North Edsa and SM City Pampanga as they hold their simultaneous 3-day Sale on August 4, 5 and 6!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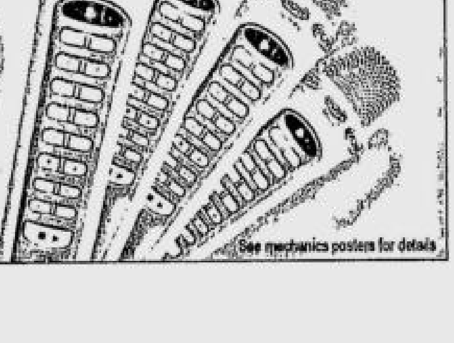


See mechanics posters for details

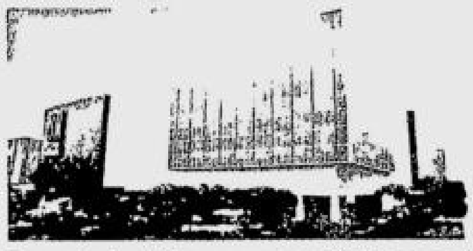
Win a new Magic Sing

A wide assortment of merchandise are tagged at up to 50% off. Discounted selections include apparel, fashion accessories, baby needs,sporting goods, home furnishings, electronic gadgets, big and small appliances, do-it-yourself hardware tools, and novelty items.

Adding to the value-packed price breaks on selected items is the prizes-laden raffle event. Every P500 purchase, single or accumulated, at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or from any participating mall establishment gives shoppers the chance to win one of 20 units of WOW Magic Sing microphones.

What's new at SM City North Edsa

Catch the excitement of first-class shopping at **The Block** in SM City North Edsa.



Located at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue, The Block is designed as the ultimate shopping venue of discriminating northside shoppers, with its dozens of high-end retail establishments that carry a wide range of signature merchandise.

More to enjoy the Garden

Located in front of the main building, The Garden will enthrall you with its diverse foliage and landscapes as you walk along its winding pathways or enjoy coffee with friends at **Figaro** and **Coffee Experience**.

Get wired to the latest gadgets and gizmos and get addicted to the latest mobile phone models. All these are up for grabs at Cyberzone in SM City North Edsa.

WOW Installment Madness

Buy WOW, the best-selling Magic Sing at 12 months 0% installment for as low as P745 a month and get a free Tarsy Bag! Visit **Astroplus, Odyssey, Tower Records, Automatic Centre, JB Music, Abenson** and **Silvergate** at SM City North Edsa and **Astrovision, Odyssey, Tower Records and JB Music** at SM City Pampanga.

What's new at SM City Pampanga

In addition to its long roster of tenants, SM City Pampanga is pleased to welcome six new stores, namely: Go Nuts Donuts • Mamasuk Pamangan Kapampangan • Just Gifts • Kirin Kirin • Refill Fashion Apparel • Photos du Monde.

Shoppers with a P150 single or accumulated purchase at SM FoodCourt are entitled to a raffle coupon.

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Buy 2 tickets and get 1 **FREE** movie pass on your next visit.

Contributing Editor
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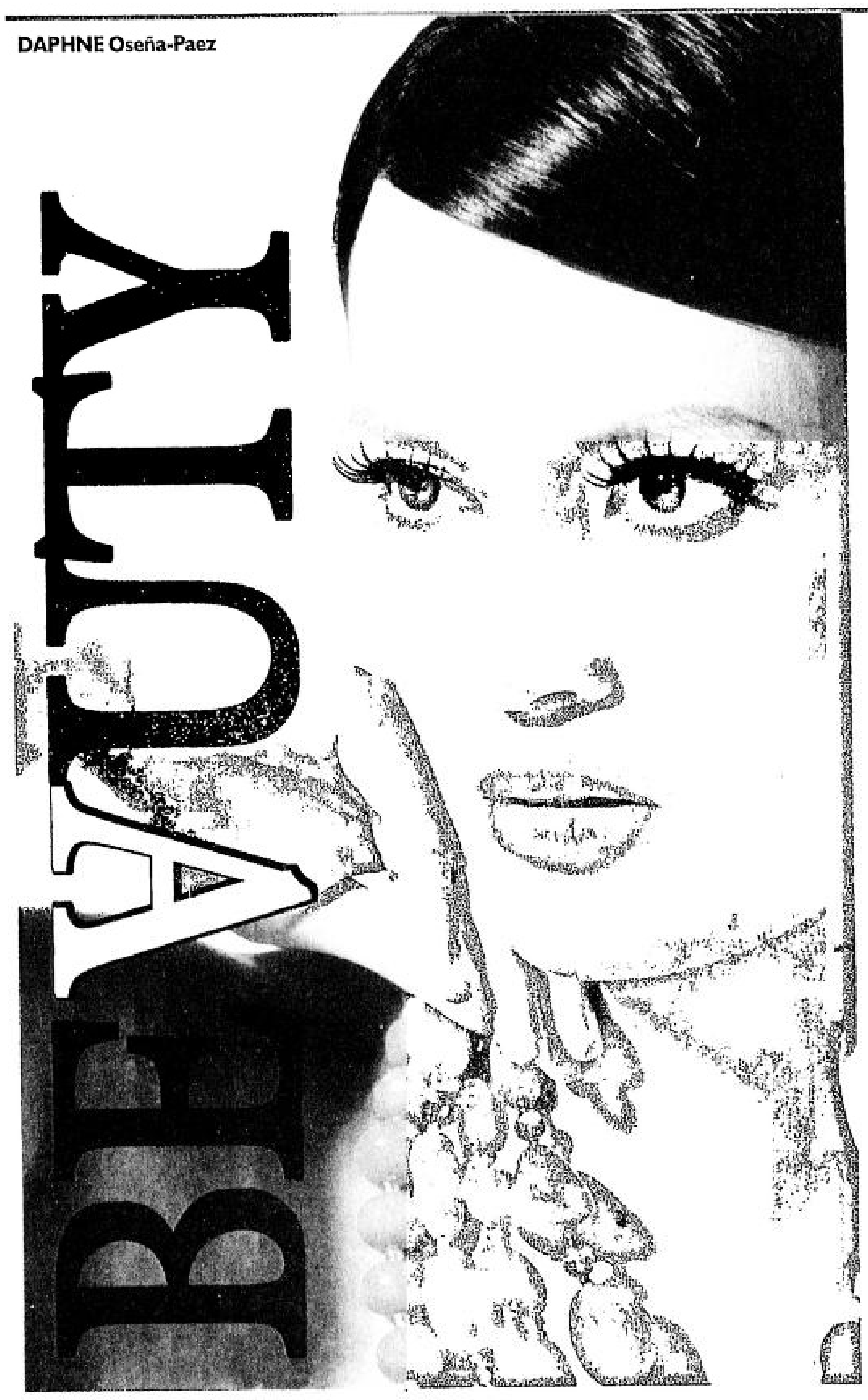

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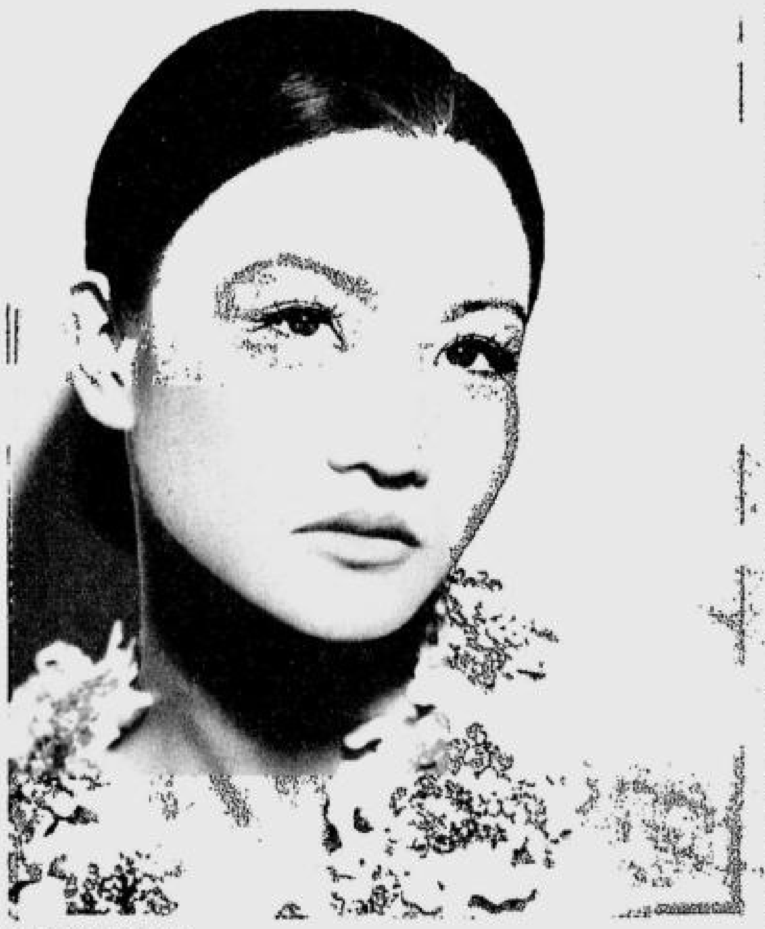

TATUM Ancheta

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EUNICE Lucero

JENNI Epperson

PHOTOGRAPHY
JEANNE YOUNG
MAKEUP
JIGS MAYUGA OF L'OREAL PARIS

KARLA Alindahao

VICKY Montenegro

In hues

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

IT'S USUALLY EXCITING when a brand launches a new makeup artist. L'Oreal Paris, a top brand in skincare, haircare and styling, recently chose Jigs Mayuga to be its chief makeup artist.

Mayuga held a makeup exhibit, featuring real people (no models). It was pretty daring since the easier route would be working with models. "An Explosion of Shades" showcased Mayuga's mastery in blending in his use of vibrant colors to enhance beauty.

When I was younger, I had a book that explained the emotion attached to colors. In fact, I remember there was a quiz I would take every day to see what disposition I was in. The first question was: "If you were a color, what color would you be?"

And since makeup has a lot to do with color, especially eye shadow, I did some research, and the results were very interesting.

Color psychology

Apart from black being the fave color of choice when one wants to look slimmer, it is also the color of authority and power.

Black also makes one look aloof. That is why I feel only special strong women can really carry smoky black eye shadow with confidence.

When some people try black, they end up looking "trying-hard." It does take a certain character to carry off black well.

I personally can't carry the look though I use black eyeliner. But anything more than that would be too much for me.

As for white, a white wedding gown symbolizes purity and innocence. It is a color that conveys cleanliness.

The best white eye shadow are the glittery ones. In fact, I've noticed that most makeup artists use them in the inner corner of the eyes because they open up the eyes and make the look cleaner.

When in a rush, it is advisable to pat on a little white shimmer on your lids, then add on mascara. That will give you a fresh look.

The color that makes the heart beat faster is red. It is an intense color that is the easiest to notice.

I know a lot of guys who think girls who wear red lipstick are sexy. So, if you want to get noticed fast, red is your ally.

But not everyone can carry red lips well, so you may try using red eye shadow, like what Mayuga did in his exhibit.

Red is so intense that it may be overused. So remember that it is best if you use it only for accentuating your asset.

If you have great lips, use red lipstick. Great eyes? Then use red eye shadow. Great cheekbones? Then use red blush.

Just pick one asset to highlight. More than that would be overkill.

Blue gives out the opposite reaction as red. It is peaceful and tranquil.

I think you would want to use blue as an eye shadow shade if you want your mate to keep looking at you without exactly knowing why. I call it silent seduction.

Blue can be used as an alternative to black if you think black is too strong.

Also, dark blue eyeliner is great when you need a fast 'do. It opens up the eyes and it's a surprisingly pleasant color pick.

The calming and refreshing color that symbolizes nature, green is one of my fave eye shadow shades.

Green is a nice alternative to brown. It is said light brown symbolizes genuineness. It is a popular shade since it is used for natural-looking makeup and can easily be layered for a more dramatic look.

Color coordination

When picking an eye shadow shade, make sure you use a shade that will be flattering to what you wear.

Sticking to neutral shades is advisable if you are not comfortable with loud colors.

If you want to try color for the first time, it is good to get a makeover at your favorite counters and pick the colors you prefer.

It is good to ask questions so you can understand what colors would work or not work for you.

You may want to check out L'Oreal Paris' eye shadow since these come in individual pots that are not as costly as some brands. You would be sure you wouldn't be stuck with a shade you would never use.

E-mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

BEAUTY SCENT-SATION

Scents of desire

VERA WANG'S UNIQUE VISION AND talent have made her the most influential bridal designer in the world.

Women can now share in Vera Wang's dream as she launches her first fragrance.

Coty Prestige South East Asia and Luxasia Philippines recently unveiled the modern, elegant and sensual fragrance line in an intimate cocktail event that was reminiscent of a romantic wedding reception.

Guests were treated to free-flowing champagne and canapés created by Bon Apetit. A string quartet serenade, beautiful calla lilies, candles and yards of white chiffon completed the bridal atmosphere. Two original Vera Wang bridal gown creations were also flown in from New York and showcased at the event.

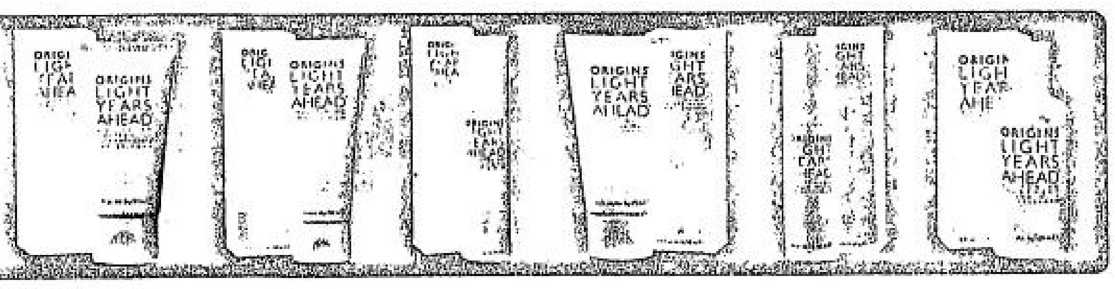
Presenting Vera Wang's story of success were Coty Prestige's general manager Warwick Jenkin and marketing manager Kamila Elliott, who came to Manila just for that day. Luxasia's general manager Mia Cuenca and product manager Vicky Marchadesch were on hand as well to unveil the two new fragrances: Vera Wang and Vera Wang for Men.

Seen enjoying the festivities were INQUIRER's Kinny Salas; Glenna Aquino and Marichelle Ligon; Mia Borromeo of Metro Society; Summit's Agoo Bengzon; Mariel Chua; Frances Amper; Maureen Disini of Just Shop; Mega's Vicky Tensuan and Bianca Salonga; Celine Novenario of Lifestyle Asia; Rustans VP for Men's Fashion, Joel Tantoco; creative icons Angelo Villanueva and Ed Aniel; Liza and Elbert Cuenca; Virlane Foundation's Audrey Revillo; ETC's Channel manager Bing Gutierrez and marketing manager Rolly Abuya; MTV Philippines' Merryl Bautista; Escentials' Maribelle Belo-Espino; and many others.

The complete line of Vera Wang fragrances and body lines are exclusively available at Rustans Makati and Rustans Shangri-La Tower.

BEAUTY HUSTLERY

CHECK out Origins at Rustan's and indulge yourself with new products from Light Years Ahead that illuminate, protect and even out your skintone.



SAN MIGUEL SUPERDRY'S TRENDSPOTTING DEFINITION 80's

San Miguel Super Dry re-casts the '80's retro image in a whole new light for a new and younger generation through its hip party series, Trenspotting Definition 80's.

Herbert Chua, assistant brand manager for San Miguel Super Dry, announced that the 20-event celebration series which kicked off July 1 at Capone's Makati would create new memories of the fabulous '80's with distinctive decade-stylized music, clean fun, a groovy new crowd of party goers, and generous servings of San Miguel Super Dry.

"San Miguel Super Dry always finds new enthusiasts because of its crisp, clean taste," Chua said, "Our party series is designed to bring them all together and celebrate the best of 80's culture through its distinctive music, played and interpreted by some of the most popular local bands in the new millennium" he continued.

The launch party of Capone's had the legendary group The Dawn rocking Capone's Makati with their versions of the most popular songs of Duran Duran, U2, Billy Idol. REM and The Cure. Their original songs including Salamat and Enveloped Ideas also formed part of their repertoire.

New wave music had the crowd at Guilly's Island Tomas Morato rocking with Orange and Lemons last July 8, while Session Road played their version of Police and Bonnie Rait hits of enthusiastic party-goers at Aruba QC last July 15.

The Dawn, Orange and Lemons, Session Road and Mojofly will topbill succeeding parties. with venues already being announced over various FM radio stations.

San Miguel Super Dry would also like to thank JBMusic, band-set-up provider for the party series.

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TRENDSPOTTING
DEFINITION 80'S PARTY SERIES
FEATURING
MOJOFLY
ORANGE & LEMONS
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AND
THE DAWN
Drink moderately.
18 AND ABOVE

Bring Back the 80's Catch Them On These Dates

JULY 1 The Dawn @ Capones, Makati 8 Orange & Lemons @ Guilly's Island, Tomas Morato 15 Session Road @ Aruba, Q.C. 21 The Dawn @ Bagaberde, Pasig 28 Mojofly @ Strumms, Makati AUG 4 Session Road @ Mugen 12 The Dawn @ Bistro 110 18 Session Road @ Quattro 25 Orange & Lemons @ Tavern on the Square SEPT 1 Session Road @ Handle Bar 8 Orange & Lemons @ Blue Onion, Libis

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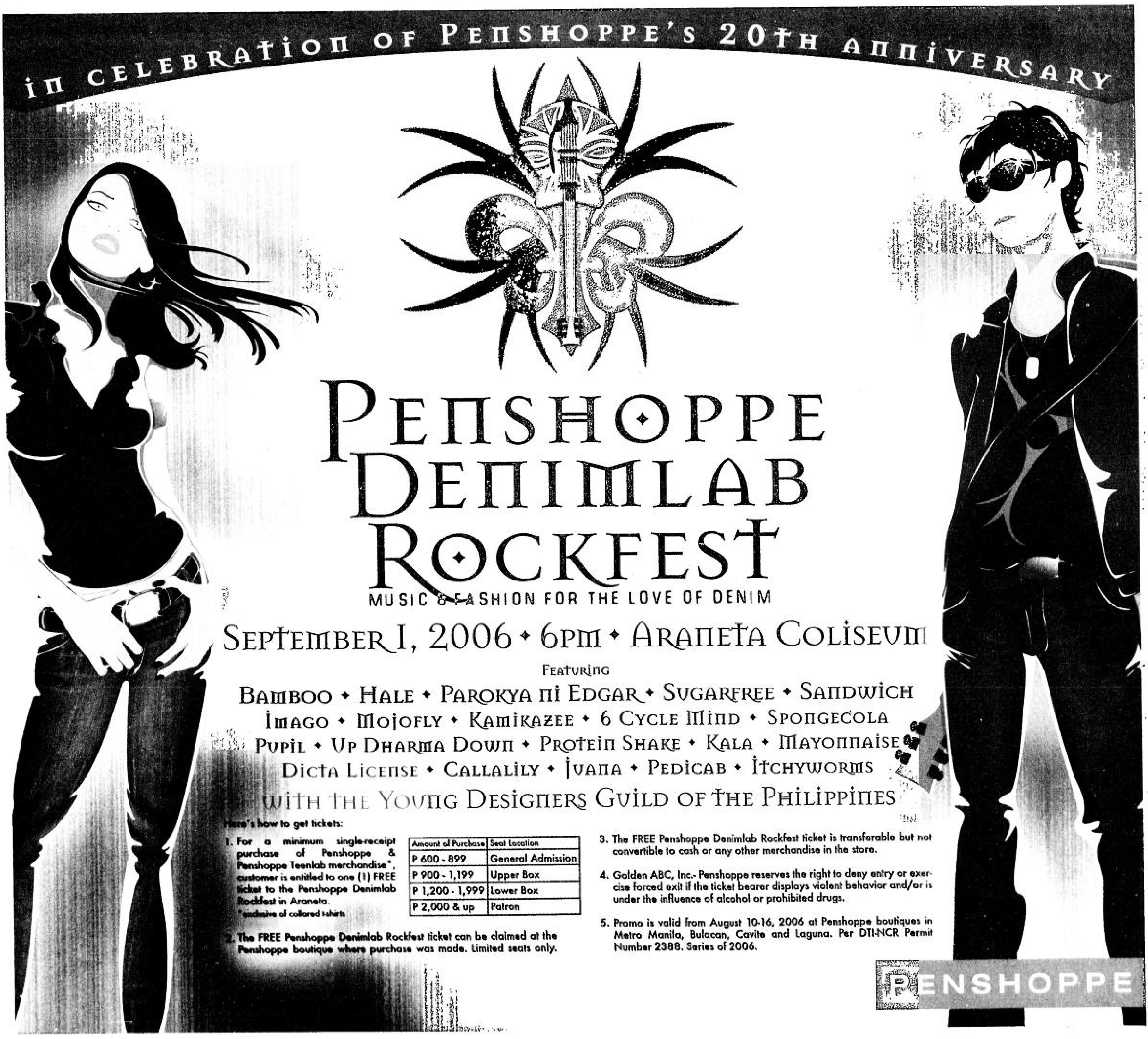
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MUSIC & FASHION FOR THE LOVE OF DENIM

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006 ✦ 6PM ✦ ARANETA COLISEUM

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PUPIL ✦ UP DHARMA DOWN ✦ PROTEIN SHAKE ✦ KALA ✦ MAYONNAISE
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WITH THE YOUNG DESIGNERS GUILD OF THE PHILIPPINES

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*exclusive of collared t-shirts

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P 900 - 1,199	Upper Box
P 1,200 - 1,999	Lower Box
P 2,000 & up	Patron

2. The FREE Penshoppe Denimlab Rockfest ticket can be claimed at the Penshoppe boutique where purchase was made. Limited seats only.
3. The FREE Penshoppe Denimlab Rockfest ticket is transferable but not convertible to cash or any other merchandise in the store.
4. Golden ABC, Inc.- Penshoppe reserves the right to deny entry or exercise forced exit if the ticket bearer displays violent behavior and/or is under the influence of alcohol or prohibited drugs.
5. Promo is valid from August 10-16, 2006 at Penshoppe boutiques in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite and Laguna. Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 2388. Series of 2006.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

BEAUTY SCENT[illegible]ATION

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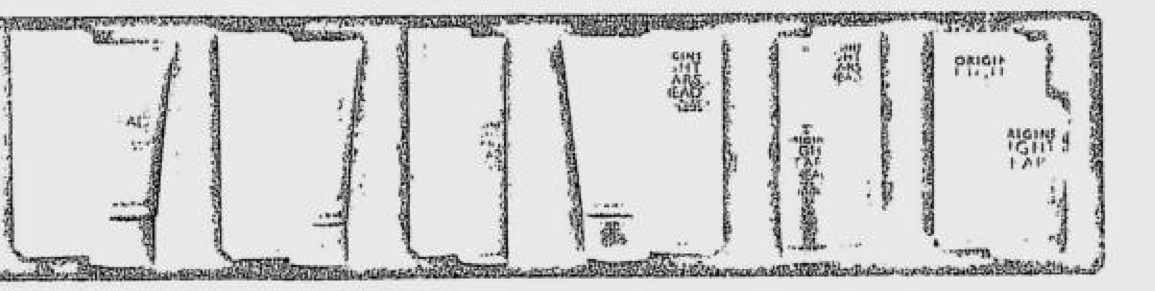
BEAUTY HUSTRY

CHEC[illegible]



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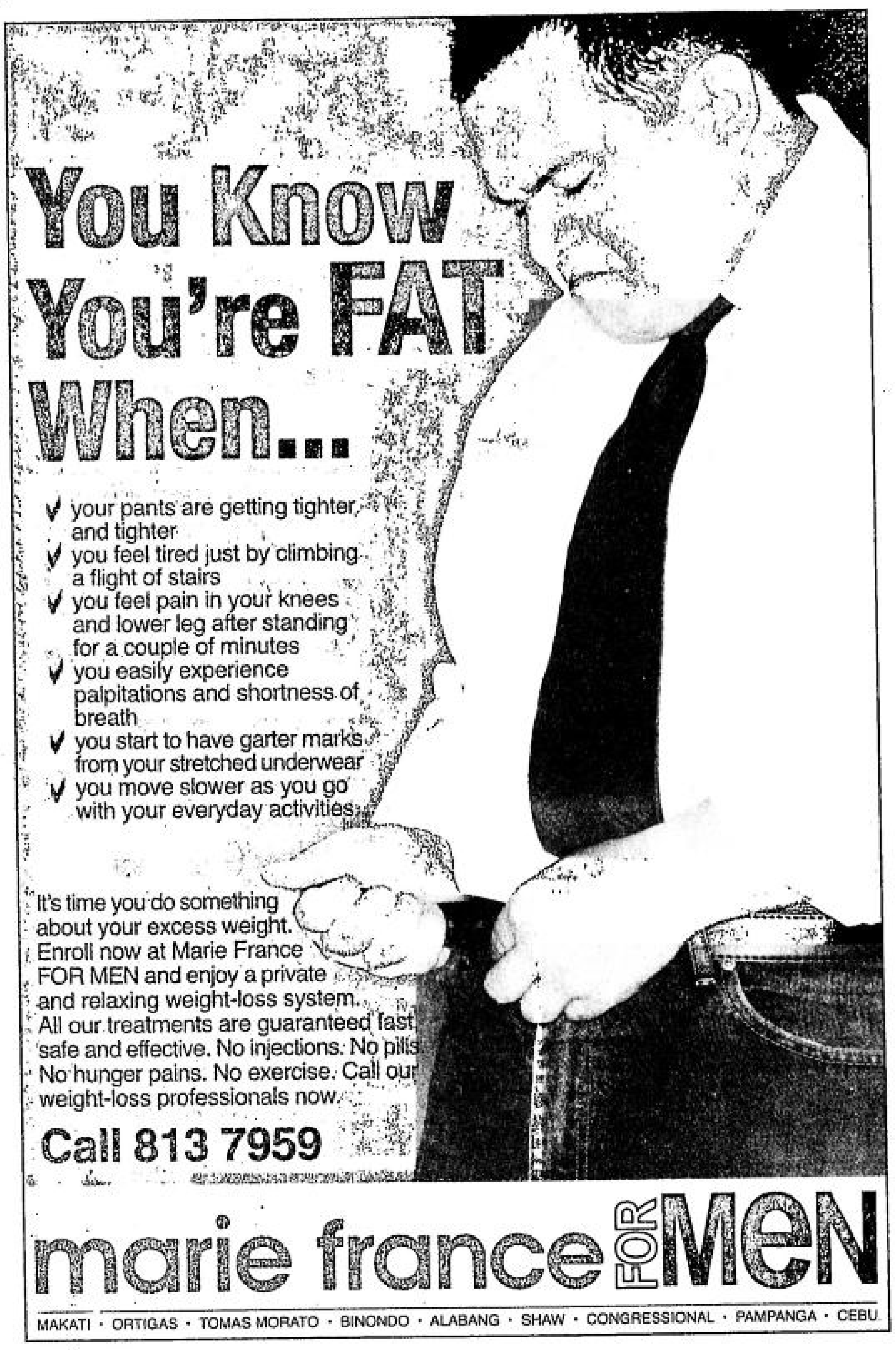
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

D-I-Y BEAUTY

MAKE your own lip tint by mixing your fave lip shade and petroleum jelly 1:1 in a small pot. After mixing, pop in the refrigerator and, after 30 minutes, you'll have your custom-made lip tint! Enjoy!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How to achieve 'constitutional white' skin

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

DURING A TEA PARTY THROWN AT the PDI office by Avon to introduce its new star product; Anew, I learned a new term—constitutional white. Coined by dermatologist Dr. Tere Pascual, it refers to the lightest natural skin color we had the day we were born. This is the whitest you can get; skincare products for alleged whitening or brightening can't match that.

Those who meet me in person assume I had originally dark skin and that I look white due to treatments; they proceed to buy the items I mention in my column, expecting themselves to become light like me. They get really frustrated because they only get white to a certain point and no more.

One thing you should know: I was born very light-skinned, thanks to a Chinese ancestor. Before I started on skin treatments and obsessive sunblock application, my foundation shades were MAC NC 25-30, L'Oreal Natural Beige, Shu 764 and Nars Budapest.

Now I use NC20, LO Ivory, Shu 564/5 and Nars Deauville. The foundation shade only went a shade or two lighter, and in Shu, only the undertone changed—less yellow 7 and more neutral 5.

I have been doing the regimen for three years and although there is a difference, skin lightening is not dramatic. The only way I can achieve a much lighter than my baby-skin tone is by aggressive skin peeling, which I refuse as it makes the skin more prone to freckling and discoloration even via fluorescent light exposure.

Anew Alternative Intensive Whitening Treatment (AIWT) goes for P1,300. Active ingredients are glycolic acid (to exfoliate dead skin and dry pimples) and Vitamin C (to encourage collagen production and repair damage).

Anew is equally potent in whitening and anti-aging. It is ideal for those who are in their late 20s and up who are beginning to show signs of aging such as fine lines, slight sagging, open pores, uneven skin tones, blemish marks and sunspots.

Among Avon's skincare line, I must say I am most impressed with Anew when it comes to quality skincare. The addresses my two main concerns—safe skin-brightening and anti-aging without the hefty price tag.

I saw results the very next morning and by the end of the week, I looked like I had gotten a spa facial regularly.

Quick results

Facial contours were more pronounced on the cheekbone and jaw area; my pores were more refined and my skin tone was so even on face and neck that I would leave the house without foundation and people would rave about my skin.

Anew really does work—even if applied only at night after Anew Retroactive 2 in 1 cleanser, which saves time as a cleanser and toner in one.

Other two-in-one cleanser/toner alternatives are: Mary Kay Timewise 3 in 1 cleanser (P1,120; it cleanses, tones, exfoliates), Ponds Cleanser and toner in one foaming wash, and Murad Vitalic cleanser.

You still have to apply a moisturizer on top AIWT as treatment. My night cream options are for firming as Asians sag before they wrinkle and since AIWT is already intensive whitening, I feel the prevention of sagging is a more pressing concern.

Night-cream options include Anew Force Extra triple lifting night cream, La Prairie Anti-Aging Complex cream (P11,400; for firmness and skin inflammation), Shu Uemura Beta G cream, and Guerlain Orchide Imperial (P20,000).

For daytime, you may resume your usual skin regimen and end with sunblock.

If your concern is more for whitening rather than anti-aging, use a whitening cream on your face and neck in the evening.

Recommended creams: Godiva Licowhite cream (P219; this new formula is more intense than the original cream), Skin Doctor's Dermabrite, Shu Uemura White Recovery, Biorica Antipigmentation care lotion, Estee Lauder Cyberwhite, Clinique dermawhite, and Elizabeth Arden Sheer White.

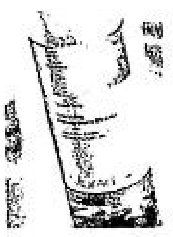
Tip: Whatever you put on your face and neck, apply also on the back of your hands. Once your hands have shown age, it will be tough to reverse.

Warning: Avoid eye area when using AIWT. Some people experience a slight sting due to the potency of glycolic acid. Those with sensitive skin may not be able to tolerate it.

For product inquiries: Avon, 8642900; Mary Kay, 8596200; Skin Doctor, Biorica and Murad are exclusively available at Essenses.

ANEW by Avon

Recovering baby-white skin means a combination of whitening and anti-aging treatments



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Vitalic cleanser

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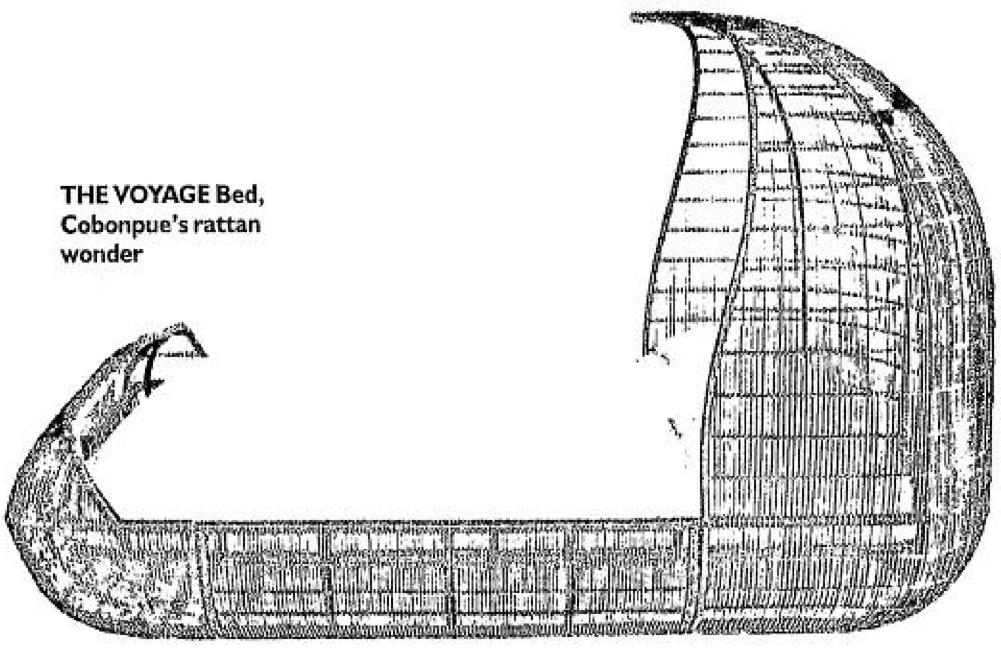
Brad Pitt sleeps on Kenneth Cobonpue's bed



THE VOYAGE Bed, Cobonpue's rattan wonder

LIFE-STYLED

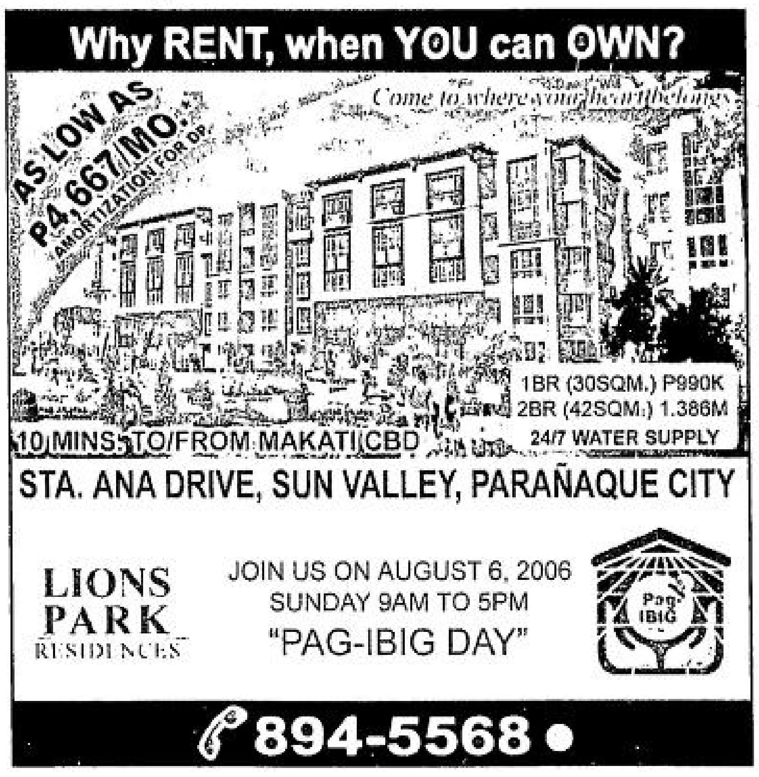
Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE WEATHER THESE DAYS HARDLY DRIVES you to produce and expend energy; it instead induces you to seek shelter—from the rain, or worse, from daily deadlines. That gloomy. It doesn't help that there's no tennis Grand Slam on TV and that Lebanon is being bombed 24/7.

But a ray of sunshine in this drab-as-lead weather came from Metro managing editor James Ong, who peeped into my room this week to ask if he could photograph Brad Pitt's bed designed by Kenneth Cobonpue. Now James got my whole undivided attention for a good five minutes.

The multi-awarded furniture designer has designed a line called Voyage Bed, one of which Brad Pitt bought recently. As many know, the

BRAD/ E4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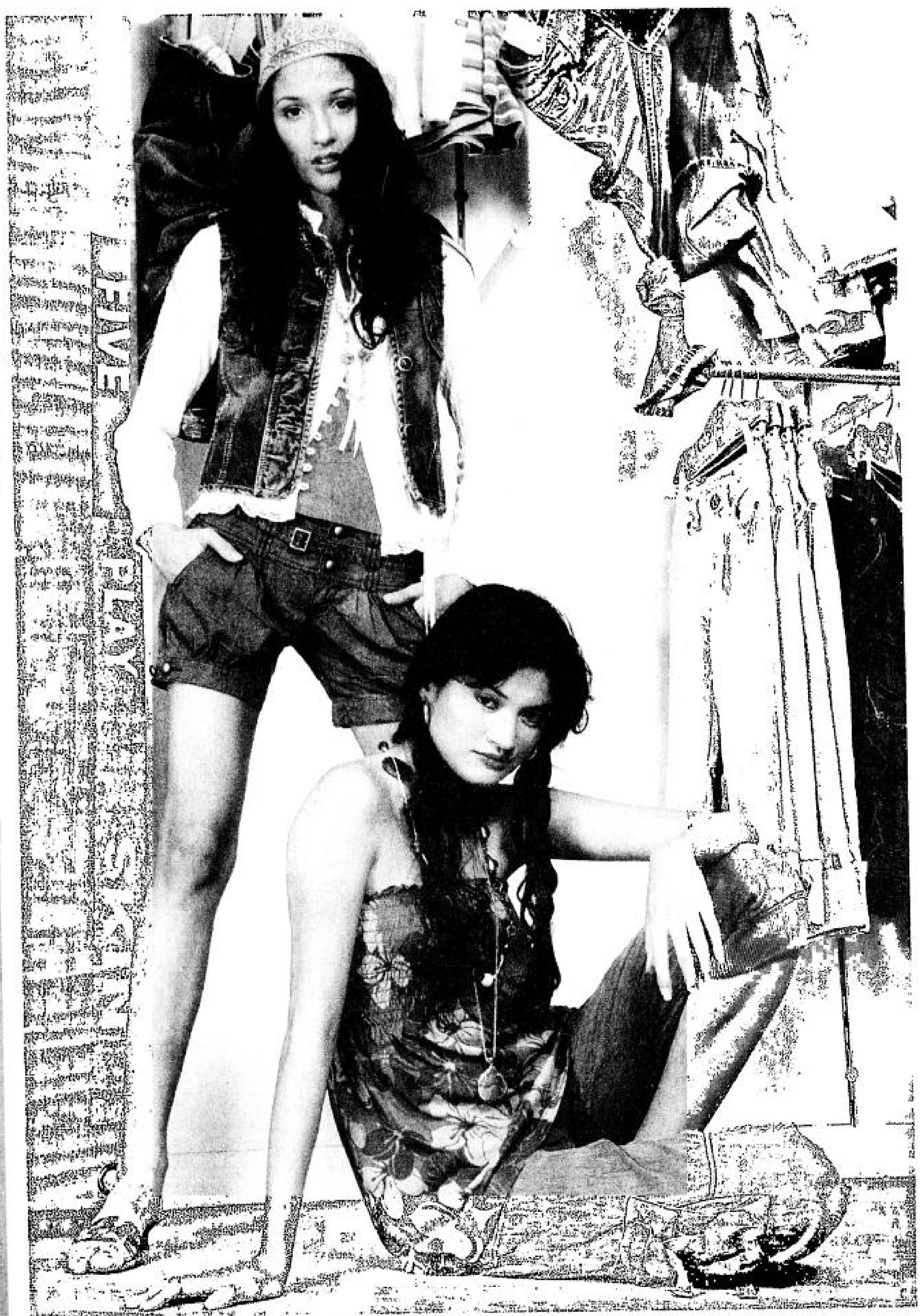
ON CHARMAGNE: skirt, P3,498; blouse, P2,198; on Russel: shirt, P2,498; pants, P2,998; and on Nicole: blouse, P2,498; shorts, P2,998; belt, P2,298; bag, P3,198



ON NICOLE: tank top, P598; blouse, P3,798; vest, P3,498; balloon shorts, P2,498; and on Charmagne: top, P1,798; pants, P4,498

Ever-trendy spirit

By Alex Y. Vergara

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ENDURing retail brands has just undergone a timely makeover in the Philippines. To keep in step with trends abroad and perhaps ward off encroaching competition from new players, Cinderella has recently overhauled four of its 15 Esprit stores nationwide.

Apart from Esprit's flagship store in Glorietta, its branches at SM Megamall, Gateway Mall and SM Mall of Asia now mirror the brand's "global" look as seen in most of its bigger stores in key cities the world over. Cinderella is poised to renovate more Esprit outlets in the months to come.

"Many shoppers were pleasantly surprised when they first came to our newly renovated branch in Glorietta," says Marielle Santos, merchandising manager of Cinderella Marketing Corp. "Those who frequently travel abroad were reminded of Esprit stores in Singapore and Hong Kong."

Apart from Esprit, Cinderella also exclusively distributes Rampage, British India, Nafnaf and U2 locally. The Esprit store in Glorietta, which first opened back in 1985, now occupies the entire basement and part of the ground floor entrance.

The updated interiors consist of a series of drop ceilings, directional lighting and walls using the so-called E-track system. Extremely wide aisles and bold signage are more the rule than the exception.

In lieu of painted metal walls, the floor area is now bordered by walls featuring giant images of the brand's latest image models. For added drama, each panel is lit from behind.

ON RUSSEL: blazer, P5,498; shirt, P2,798, and pants, P3,798

The changes, however, are far from cosmetic. "Of course, we keep ourselves abreast of trends by getting only the best and the latest the brand has to offer," says stylist Lee Laviña, one of Cinderella's chief in-house buyers.

But that doesn't mean getting everything and anything that's in style. Laviña and her colleagues regularly sift through dozens upon dozens of merchandise and select only items that are likely to appeal to fashionable but relatively conservative Filipinos.

"We do the initial shopping for our customers," she adds. "We also take into consideration the country's weather."

Because of the country's humid climate, for instance, Esprit's summer collection still manages to appeal to its target market despite the rains. However, the store does sell a number of distressed denim jackets and cable-knit sweaters to help its wearers ward off the elements.

Five sections

The sprawling outlet is generally divided into five sections: Esprit de Corps (EDC) for young ladies, Women's Casual, Women's Collection, Men's Casual and Men's Collection.

Because of its target market, EDC is decidedly edgier than Women's Casual and Women's Collection. On top of its wide range of distressed, beaded and embroidered jeans, the section consists primarily of bright and neutral tank tops, earth-colored shorts, camouflage pants, shrunken jackets and batik skirts.

> Cinderella has recently overhauled four of its 15 Esprit stores nationwide, but the brand's clothes have remained as wearable as ever

"We offer one of the best and most unique jeans lines in town," says Laviña. "The leather patching and embroidery give them a made-to-order look. They're definitely for trend-setters."

In contrast, pieces found in Women's Casual are for "fashion followers." Not that its featured merchandise is boring. Far from it. The cargo pants, striped shirts, wrap dresses and linen skirts are quite wearable and, with the right styling, can be tweaked further.

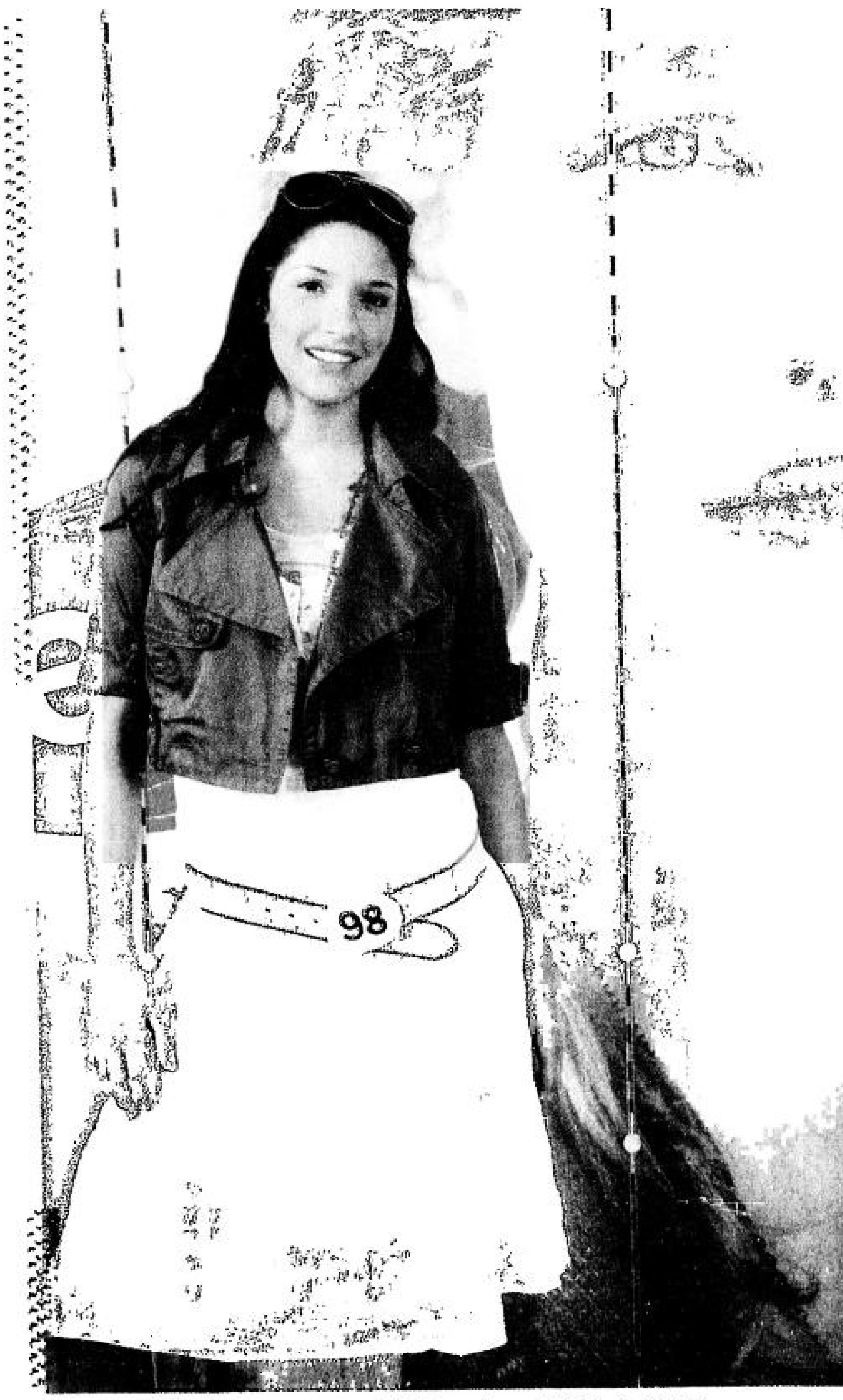
For career women, Women's Collection offers a wide range of coordinated staples—from suits to blazers, slacks to Capri pants, shirts to sleeveless shells—versatile enough to wear to board meetings as well as cocktails.

Men's Casual and Men's Collection are mirror lines of their female counterparts. The latter, however, is composed of more dressed-down pieces such as chinos, distressed jeans and cool cotton shirts meant for casual Fridays.

Indeed, in many ways, only the store's interiors have changed. Esprit's clothes have remained as trendy and as wearable as ever.

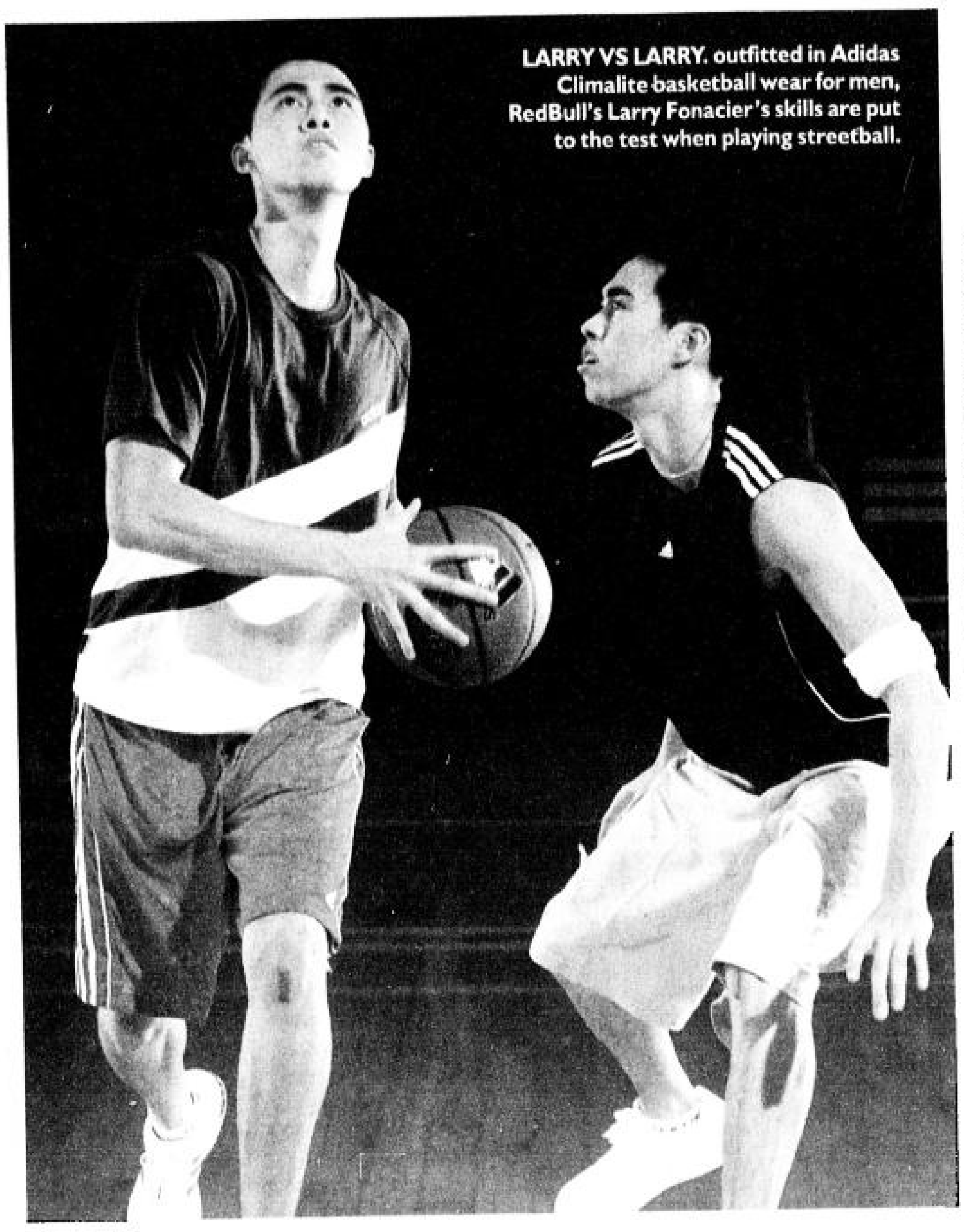
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY FRANK HOEFSMIT (0917-5347633)
CLOTHES ESPRIT
HAIR AND MAKEUP EDWIN CALINGASAN
MODELS NICOLE HUNZIKER,
CHARMAGNE DE GUZMAN (FACETS) AND
RUSSELL CLIFTON (T-MODELS)
SHOT ON LOCATION AT ESPRIT, GLORIETTA



ON NICOLE: dress, P4,998; jacket, P4,798; tank top, P698; belt, P1,798

ON RUSSEL: blazer, P7,998; shirt, P2,998; pants, P3,498; and on Charmagne: vest, P3,498; skirt, P3,498



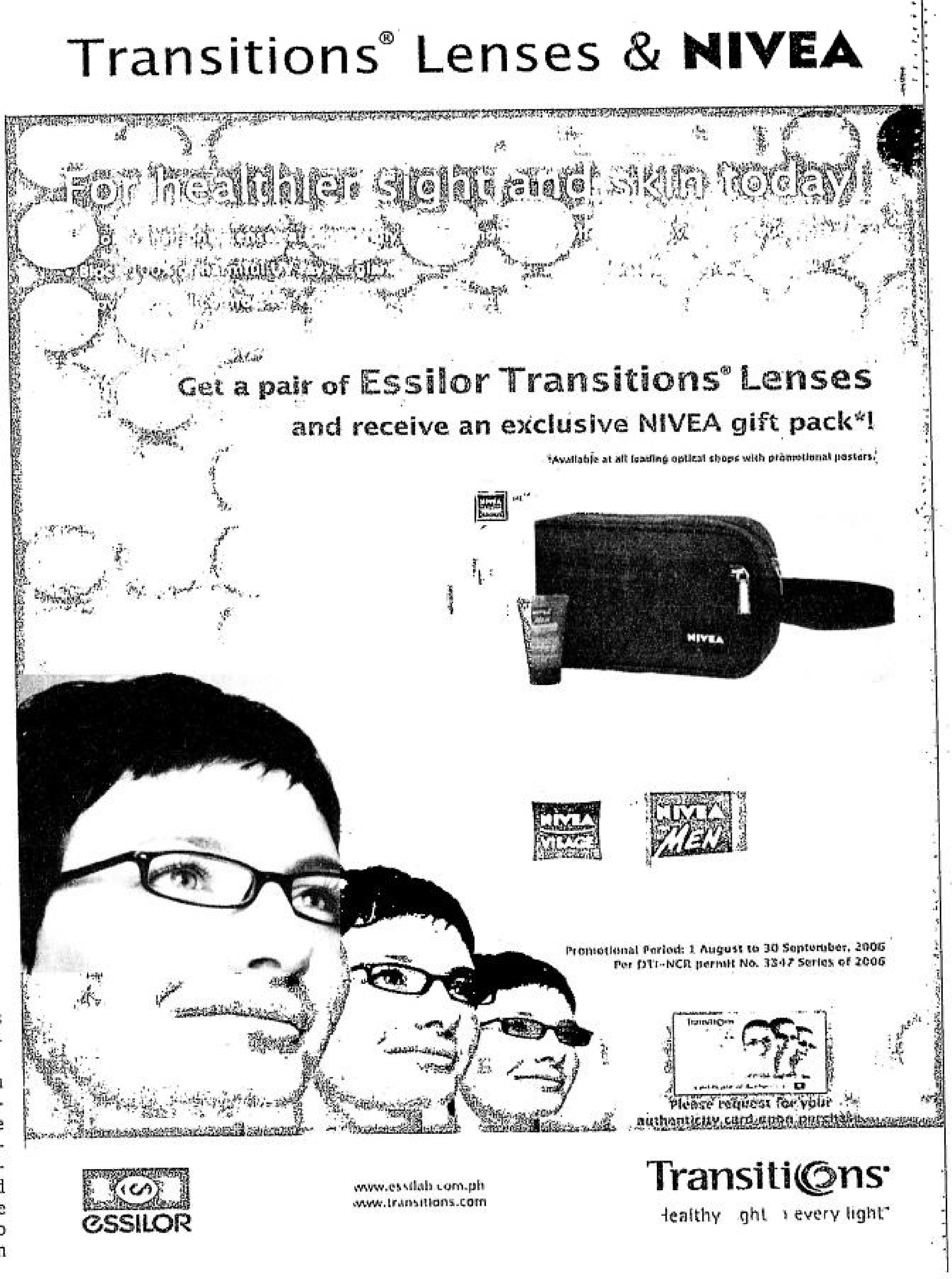
LARRY VS LARRY. outfitted in Adidas Climalite basketball wear for men, RedBull's Larry Fonacier's skills are put to the test when playing streetball.

The challenge is on!

PBA PLAYER LARRY FONACIER JOINED THE Adidas Streetball Challenge when he was in the seventh grade. "Streetball really maximized my skills," he says.

Streetball teams are composed of four players, with a 12-minute running time, three players match up against one another while the fourth serves as a substitution and acts as coach on the sideline. Started in 1996, the Adidas Streetball Challenge is the longest-running grassroots three-on-three program in the Philippines and has helped developed professional Filipino ballers. At the Asian level, Filipino ballers have proven their talents by winning three of the Asian streetball championships.

Ballers from the National Capital Region battle it out for the last slot for the national finals on Aug. 5-6 at Market! Market!; while the Adidas Streetball Challenge will culminate with the national finals for the four regional champion teams for both the girls and boys teams on Aug. 12 at SM Mall of Asia. The winning championship boy teams will head to the Asian Streetball Championship in Guangzhou, China.



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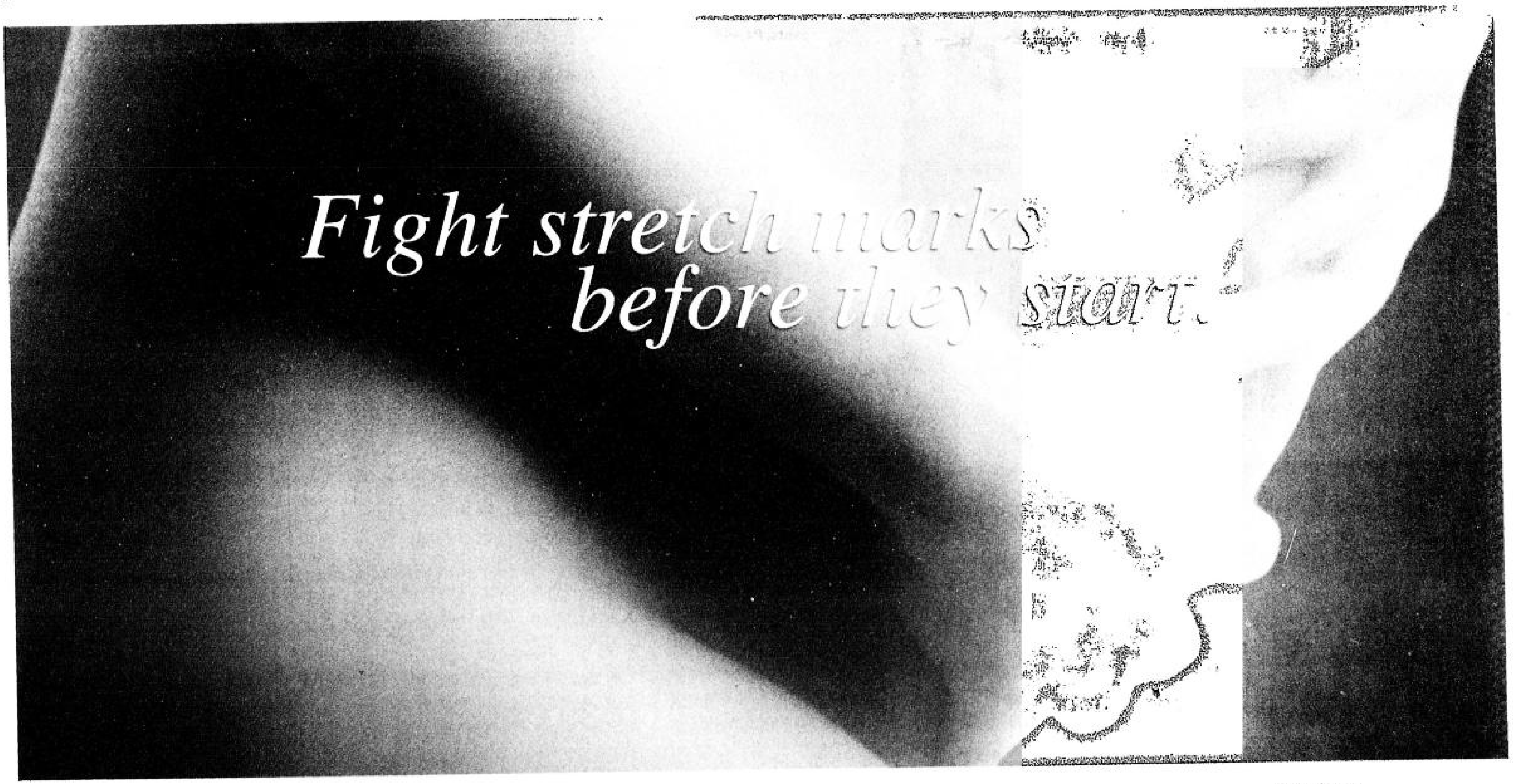

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Brad Pitt sleeps on Cobonpue's bed

From page E1

Hollywood actor is deep into design and architecture (sad to say, an interest not apparently shared by his ex-girlfriend; Jennifer Aniston—us girls belong to Team Aniston), which perhaps explains why he was drawn to Cobonpue's designs.

Cobonpue achieved fame with Movement 8, the agenda-setting group of designers that was formed by Citem's Eli Pinto and Budji Layug and which has gained prestige and clientele in design shows worldwide.

Cobonpue has turned his rattan furniture into modern sculptures, with amorphous shapes. His techniques with rattan have moved far ahead of the traditional and conventional.

According to Time Magazine, Warner Brothers has also asked Cobonpue to furnish a casino set for the upcoming "Ocean's Thirteen."

The Cebu designer has also been asked to furnish 'Ocean's Thirteen' set

But for me, really worth looking forward to is the completion of Cobonpue's house in Cebu which Budji is designing. The two designers have been working on the house for more than a year now.

DAVID Sedaris watches a game show at ABS-CBN studio.

Budji, for his part, has been shuttling here and abroad, with design projects in Beijing, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur.

Sedaris in the office

As the rains curtained off my view of the Quezon City skyline from our office, we had an unexpected but welcome visitor in our office last week: David Sedaris.

The American book author, who was visiting Manila as part of an Asian book tour, popped up in our office on his way to the TV studios on the ground floor where he was supposed to watch "Wowowee." Philip Cu-unjieng had gotten him interested in attending the TV game show and invited him over to our office.

Imagine this icon of modern American literature ("Naked," "Me Talk Pretty One Day," etc.) parking himself in one of the cubicles outside my room and small-talking away with the staff. You have to pinch yourself to believe it.

After cram-reading his novels, I now consider him to be this generation's Russel Baker, one of my favorite American writers (apart from John Irving).

Sedaris is not only humorous, witty, but also, in person, so candid and lovable. He chatted away with us with the familiarity of an old *balikbayan* friend (this was his first time in the Philippines) who just happened to be in the neighborhood. Given his amiable way, he blended right with the office.

First, he asked people if they still lived with their parents. Then he told us what he'd done since he flew in. Of course, people have already read that he'd been to Jollibee, and that at Bruno's, where he got a haircut, he was fascinated by all the ear-cleaning going on. He never thought until then that men could have pedicure. But what made us guffaw were:

- How Sedaris and his friend Hugh just went with their host's driver doing his errands, including going to the laundry shop, just so they'd get a feel of what a day was like in the city;
- How he can't live without smoking. That was why he moved to Paris in the first place, so he could smoke, he said, of course without knowing that the guy he was talking to, our publishing president, Ernie Lopez, is the city's anti-smoking rat patrol, averse as he is to the vice. But then, Sedaris moaned, he noticed that now Parisians are beginning to heed anti-smoking signs—"so I might move to Africa," he said;
- How he jotted the word "Manong" so he'd know what to call the Pinoy on the street, only for Apa Ongpin to teach him a new word—"barok." And on and on, Apa explained to him the origin and meaning of the word;
- How he and Apa got talking about midgets. Sedaris went to Hobbit House where he said he had watched perform one of the best artists he'd heard. Apa gave him a private piece of information—the midgets of Hobbit House, once, were made to take their nuptial vows by the parish priest of the church across the street. It was a midgets' mass wedding, with their children (born out of wedlock) in attendance, standing taller than the principals. Again, Sedaris was so fascinated with such tales of the city.

What we found fascinating was Sedaris' contagious fascination with our humdrum days in this Metro Manila. Truly a hungry writer, this one. The staff's "kuwentuhan" with Sedaris went on and on, and wouldn't have stopped had it not been time for him to go down to the studios.

On a rainy day, it can't get better than that.

Countdown to Ateneo Awards

Ateneo Art Gallery's Richie Lerma has a winner in his hands—the Ateneo Art Awards, which is on its third year. The Awards ceremony will be held Aug. 8 at Rockwell Tent. It is the awards for today's young artists, open to those below 35 years old. The 12 artists shortlisted for this year are Ronald Anading, Yason Banal, Lena Cobangbang, Marina Cruz, Mideo Cruz, Anton del Castillo, Bembol dela Cruz, Maya Muñoz, Wawi Navarroza, Rodel Tapaya, Jay Ticar and Jevijoe Vitug.

Themed "Outbound" this year, it honors the memory of Fernando Zobel, one of the icons of Philippine modern art.

Royal visitor

Next month, Manila will have a royal visitor—an honest-to-goodness European royalty visitor. There will be no socials to mark the occasion, only visits to charities... Gap finally comes to Southeast Asia. Before the holidays, Gap will open in Kuala Lumpur and in a 9,000-sq m space on Orchard Road in Singapore... Our good friend who's a fine writer but who would rather work in the cement industry, Margarita "Tats" Locsin, has left for Sydney to take a one-year course in international communications at Macquerie University. Tats had been with Lafarge.

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LIFESTYLE

CRICKET

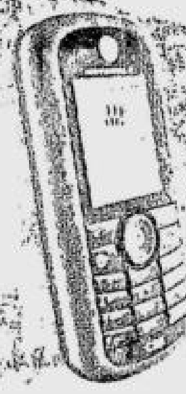
Law revue

YES, IT'S BRITISH ACTOR JUDE LAW and he's starring in the autumn/winter 2006 ad campaign of Alfred Dunhill, the definitive English luxury brand.

Exclusive to Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam, the campaign launches the Ensign leather goods range and ready-to-wear collection. The ad campaign again teams up Dunhill and Law with legendary photographer Paolo Roversi.

Alfred Dunhill is available exclusively at Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza.

It's raining phones.



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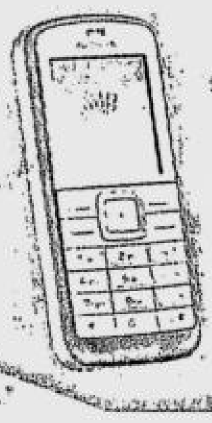

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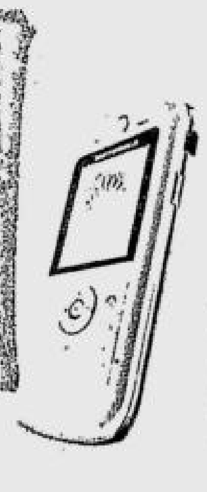

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Nokia 6070	3,600	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
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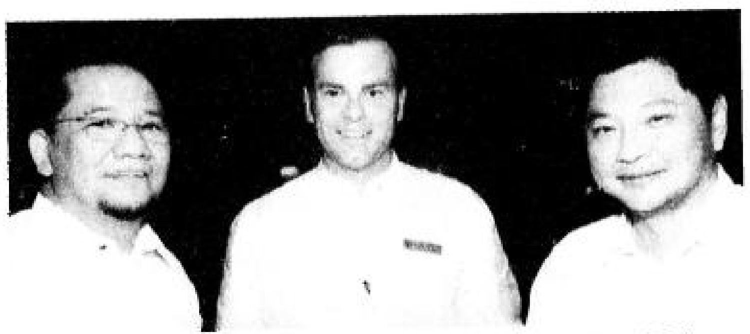

DANNY Kimseng, BPI VP; good-looking Karl Hudson, GM of Cebu City Marriott Hotel; and Dr. Edward Gaisano

NORA Morada, Shyne Valencia, Jose Morada II and Dr. Tricia Morada

THE BPI GANG. Fe Emlyn Boltron, BPI; Margaret Gaisano Ang; Myra Sylianteng, BPI-SVP; Kaye de la Paz, BPI VP; and Christine Gaisano

World's delicious tastes converge in Davao

From page F4

you just go, *palanggas*.

And that's exactly what I did when the renowned Levi Strauss Philippines Inc. invited *moi* for the cool Spring/Summer 2006 collection of Dockers San Francisco brand, at the grand ballroom of the in-demand Dusit Hotel in Makati.

Levi's and Dockers country manager **Ramon Martelino** welcomed their top retailers and hotshot invitees.

"Dockers has become a huge success in Philipine men's wear," said brand manager **Bobet Romualdo**, *palanggas*.

The Dockers line was modeled by top male models. No wonder the gals were kept at the edge, watching all that great fashion and great masculinity, dahlings. The fashion show was superbly directed by **Robbie Carmona**.

The new line was set on two levels, called "Urban Nature" and "Ethnicity." These were developed by Dockers' creative geniuses and product managers from the Asia-Pacific region.

Hey, check out the new Dockers collection now, *natch*!

Bel-Air fiesta

Bel-Air held its annual super-fun Pasinaya festival, and as in the past, it was a huge success, *palanggas*.

The festival was a two-day shower of food, bazaars, entertainment, games and tons of surprises, with marching bands, rock bands, *perya* rides, *calesa* tours, and dancing, plus everything else that make our Pinoy fiesta famous the world over.

"This is our time," said Barangay Bel-Air's creative consultant, TV's traveling gal **Susan Medina**. She was urging her co-residents to put their best foot forward for the *barangay*'s Pasinaya festival.

The barangay's hotshot captain, **Constancia Lichauco**, said some 300 residents spanning four generations actively participated in the festival.

This year's awesome Pasinaya was a fabulous one, *palanggas*. Makati's dynamic Mayor **Jejomar Binay**, Vice Mayor **Ernesto Mercado** and Rep. **Butz Aquino** were all present and pleased with the event.

Apres the ribbon-snipping and solemn blessing ceremonies, it was a jam-packed weekend, with a *lugawan* breakfast and free rides on colorful *calesas* and *perya* contraptions, a children's fashion show, music performances and art exhibits, a dog show, a raffle, and a bingo game with the top prize at P50,000.

The first night was "Youth Night," which had all letting their hair down, and rocking to the tunes of six top bands.

The second night saw the fun-filled cultural night. The theme of the festival, "Panahon Natin; Ritmo Natin," was brought to life onstage through the talents of writer/director **Floy Quintos** and choreographer **Andrew Ferraris**.

The fab host, **Mitch Valdez**, kept the audience laughing, but the true stars were the Bel-Air residents of all ages in colorful-themed costumes who danced to various hits from the swinging '50s to the rocking '90s.

"Triumph" is the word to describe "Panahon Natin: Ritmo Natin," dahlings. No other community has the sense of belonging, or the spirit, that permeates Bel-Air.

BPI EVP Gil Buenaventura

BPI president Aurelio Montinola III

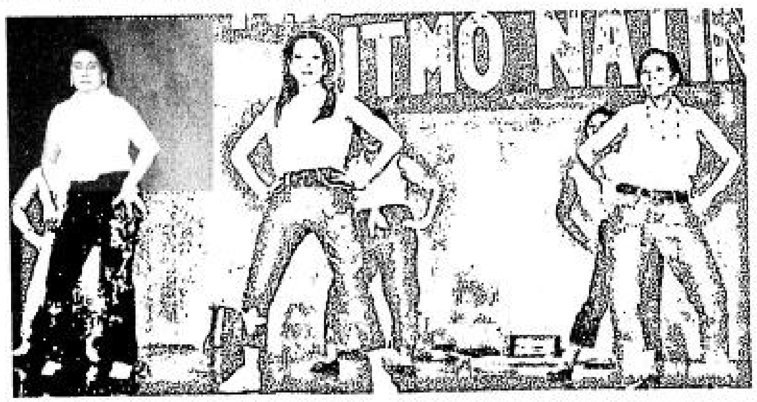
ROWENA Cuyco and RPA and Communicate's Philip Abadacio

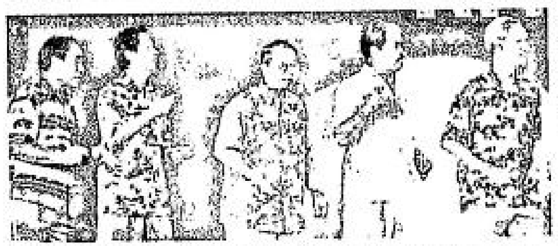
ANTHONY Suntay and Spencer's Jeremy Sy

DOCKERS' Grace Ibsernas, Olen Lim, Bobet Romualdo and Emily Gerladez

PASINAYA opening ribbon-cutting. Kagawad Victor Gomez, Barangay Captain Nene Lichauco, Bava president Amy Wong, Makati Mayor Jojo Binay, Dr. Elenita Binay, Hon. Guia Bautista, Kagawad Ching Caluag

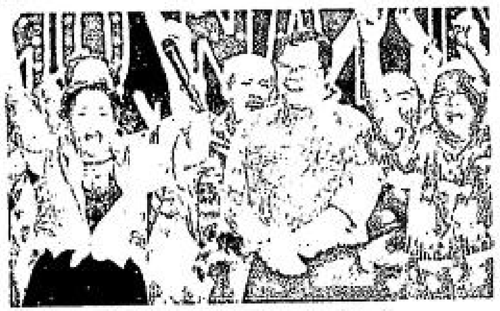
LUI Medina, Letty Santos, Malang, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Danielle


DANCING to Sylvia La Torre. Menchu Geronimo, Kelly Gana and Juda Lui


TOTI Herbosa, George Bautista, Tony Puyat, Boy Cervantes and Bong Recio

CHARITO Dimayuga, Nene Lichauco, Malyne Lorayes, Susan Medina, Winda Bautista and Mila Puyat

JASLER Santiago, Don Panganiban, Myx Yco, director Robbie Carmona and Carlo Adorador


VIVA BEL-AIR. The top lady behind Pasinaya's success, Nene Lichauco, and Rep. Butz Aquino

DOCKERS brand leader Bobet Romualdo, Levi Strauss Phils. country manager Ramon Martelino and Spencer's Tony Sy reopen the Dockers San Francisco store in Glorietta 3.

THOMAS Wallworth, AJ Winkler, Dockers' Bobot Romualdo, fashion instructor Olen Lim, Ian Casem and stylist Borgy Manotoc

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German leather gems

CHIC ruby-red Pearlis handbag and tote can seamlessly complement boardroom dressing.

FOR HIM. Stil clutch bag of soft leather, Kunst wallet and Carson ankle boot

SUPPLE full-grained leather of Creame tote, handbag and sandal, is contrasted with stitching and trimmed with removable bracelet-chain of natural stones like light-brown aventurine, rose jade and dark-brown agate.

RENOWNED BAG BRAND BRAUN Buffel, recognized globally for its exceptional craftsmanship, superior leather, classic elegance and contemporary appeal, is now in Manila.

Established in 1887 by Johann Braun in Kim, Germany, the brand offers premium leather pieces and accessories. Notable among these are the stage-coach chest bag and bell bag, both of which use more modern lines and contemporary shapes.

Four full collections featuring small leather goods in colors ranging from fuchsia to Nero, coco to caramel make their debut.

Simultaneously formal and fashionable, the Braun Buffel Pearlis line seamlessly complements boardroom dressing with chic tones of jet black and ruby reds.

The collection continues the lineage of "Libre," a past favorite, but redefined and reinvigorated with patterned stitching and feminine touches as well as a utilitarian multi-pocketed design.

In addition to the handbags, the Pearlis line includes a range of matching accessories such as wallets, key holders and coin pouches.

Clean lines and block colors mark the smart-casual look of Creame Collection for women, which comes in Coral Pink Tangerine Orange and Chocolate Dark Brown, and uses high-quality cowhide.

The handbag range includes 13 styles, from totes to slim duffels, carry-alls and Hobo bags. Creame utilizes supple full-grained leather skillfully designed with intricate details such as subtle contrast stitching and in-season beads. Natural stones like light-brown aventurine, rose jade and dark-brown agate adorn its bracelet-chain, which may even be removed and worn as a separate chime trinket.

Braun Buffel's Stil Collection (fur Mann) features classically strong hues and intellectual German design for modern males. Stil (German for "style") aims to create a mood of activity and movement, and the collection relies heavily on athletic form, complemented by the use of softer leathers.

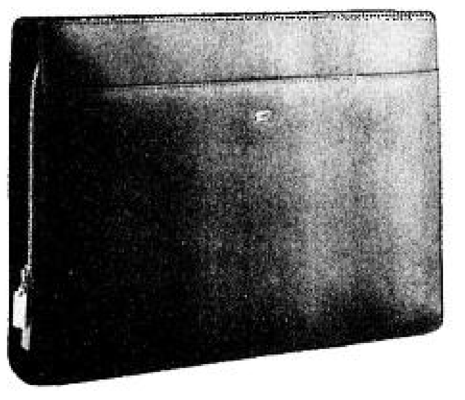
As the men's anchor collection for Spring/Summer 2006, Stil presents a lineup of briefcases, messenger bags, document bags and men's totes with matching sets of key cases, wallets and notepads.

Another collection for men called the Macht Collection (German for "power") is inspired by the torque, horsepower and sleekness of a sports car.

The briefcases and document bags present sturdy frames, adding strength and form to the structures. Minimalist appeal extends to the exterior with its simple but luxurious horsehair embossing. The smaller briefcases also feature reverse arrow handles and cushion grips.

Macht includes male clutches, document bags and briefcases as well as wallets with maximum storage convenience, plus matching shoes from the Schuhwerk range.

Braun Buffel is distributed locally by Montegani Inc., and its Manila boutiques are at 4/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center; 2/L, Eastood Citywalk 2, Libis; and Leather Gallery, Robinsons Place Ermita. Braun Buffel is also available at Rustan's and SM Department Stores.



POWER ACCESSORY. This document bag is from the men's line Macht, which is inspired by the torque, horsepower and sleekness of a sports car.

GOINGS ON

Beauty queens to accept books for day-care program

The Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. will accept book donations from Scholastic for its day-care program at 10 a.m., Aug. 4, at the JAA Training Room, 11/F Aurora Tower, Araneta Center, QC. The event marks the launch of the literacy program and library of the Araneta Group of Companies. Binibining Pilipinas World Ana Maris Igpit and Binibining Pilipinas International Denille Lou Valmonte will accept the donation.

YOUNG DESIGNERS. The search for the Barbie Fab Designers is on. Girls 8-15 years old can join the junior fashion designer category while those aged 16-25 can enter the senior fashion designer category. Get an entry form with every purchase of any Barbie Fashion Fever product until Aug. 31. Send entries to Fashion Fever Barbie Fab Designers Search, Richwell Trading Corporation Marketing Office, 25 Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Deadline is Sept. 7. Call Richwell at 7325141 to 47.

MANAGEMENT, BOOKKEEPING SEMINARS. CFS Creative Training and Management is offering the following seminars: "Purchasing Management," Aug. 11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Basic Bookkeeping," Aug. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Effective People Management (Leadership), Aug. 23-24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825 or e-mail cfscreative@yahoo.com.ph

SEMINARS. The Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), will conduct seminars at the second floor of PTTC Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Topics covered are: Basic MS Powerpoint, Aug. 15; Webpage Development: Creating Interactive Content and Animation Using Flash, Aug. 16-17; and 5S of Good Housekeeping, Aug. 18.

PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. (FPPFI) will hold a series of seminars on professional photography starting Aug. 12. First seminar will cover Studio Lighting fundamentals with Allan Z. Razo as lecturer. Contact FPPF, 7/F Comfoods Bldg., Makati City, tel. 8137420; Rm. 302-A, FEMII Bldg., A. Soriano St. (formerly Aduana), Intramuros, Manila, 5247576; or e-mail lito.beltran@gmail.com. Visit www.photoworldmanila.com

SCHOLARSHIPS. The Ben Farrales Foundation offers scholarships in fashion designing and dressmaking. Application forms are available now at Slim's Fashion and Art School (tels. 8873390, 8873392) or at Ben Farrales' shop (5248439, 5253421). Please bring your high school transcript, diploma and latest resume. Deadline for submission of application is Aug. 15.

PHOTO CONTEST. Win gift certificates and gift packs in Robinsons malls' "Best Moment with Lolo and Lola Photo Contest." Grandchildren may submit one 8" x 10" photo with either of their grandparents with a brief explanation why they are considered best moments. Deadline for submission of entries is Aug. 27. Each participating mall will have one winner and prizes will be awarded on Sept. 10, Grandparents' Day. Call 6836100 local 780 or 6836137.

REUNION. Class 1967 of the Masbate High School (now Masbate National Comprehensive High School) will have a 40th anniversary reunion May 19-20, 2007. Members of Class '67 may call or text Marina (Verano) Merioles, 0910-3595261; and Evelyn (Martires) Udaundo, 0928-3561480 or 4543934, for details.

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World's delicious tastes converge in Davao

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

DAVAO BECAME A CULINARY center of the South, with several gourmands converging in the city, and food lovers even from as far as Cebu coming to town to savor some of the world's best cuisine.

The occasion was a food fest organized by the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), together with MasterCard International.

The invitees were taken to a superb culinary journey, *palanggas*, across 12 awesome countries such as Switzerland, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Brazil, Turkey and England.

The culinary fest was masterfully prepared by top chefs **Robert Lijia** of Cebu Marriott Hotel and Mindanao Culinary Festival awardee **Ed Tuazon** of the popular Marco Polo Hotel-Davao.

For extras, there was a mix of documentary video showing and musical performances from each of the "destinations," *palanggas*.

Hotshot namedroppables present included brilliant **Aurelio Montinola III**, BPI president, and **Gil Buenaventura**, BPI executive vice president, and other senior BPI officials.

The occasion was the launch of BPI's new Express Credit Gold MasterCard, which offers "unprecedented" security and protection against fraud, higher intelligence, plus tons of other convenience, from free comprehensive travel insurance package. The card is also subject to lower foreign exchange rates when used abroad.

Hey, the food festival gave southern consumers a taste of the best cuisine while introducing the great benefits of chip-based cards.

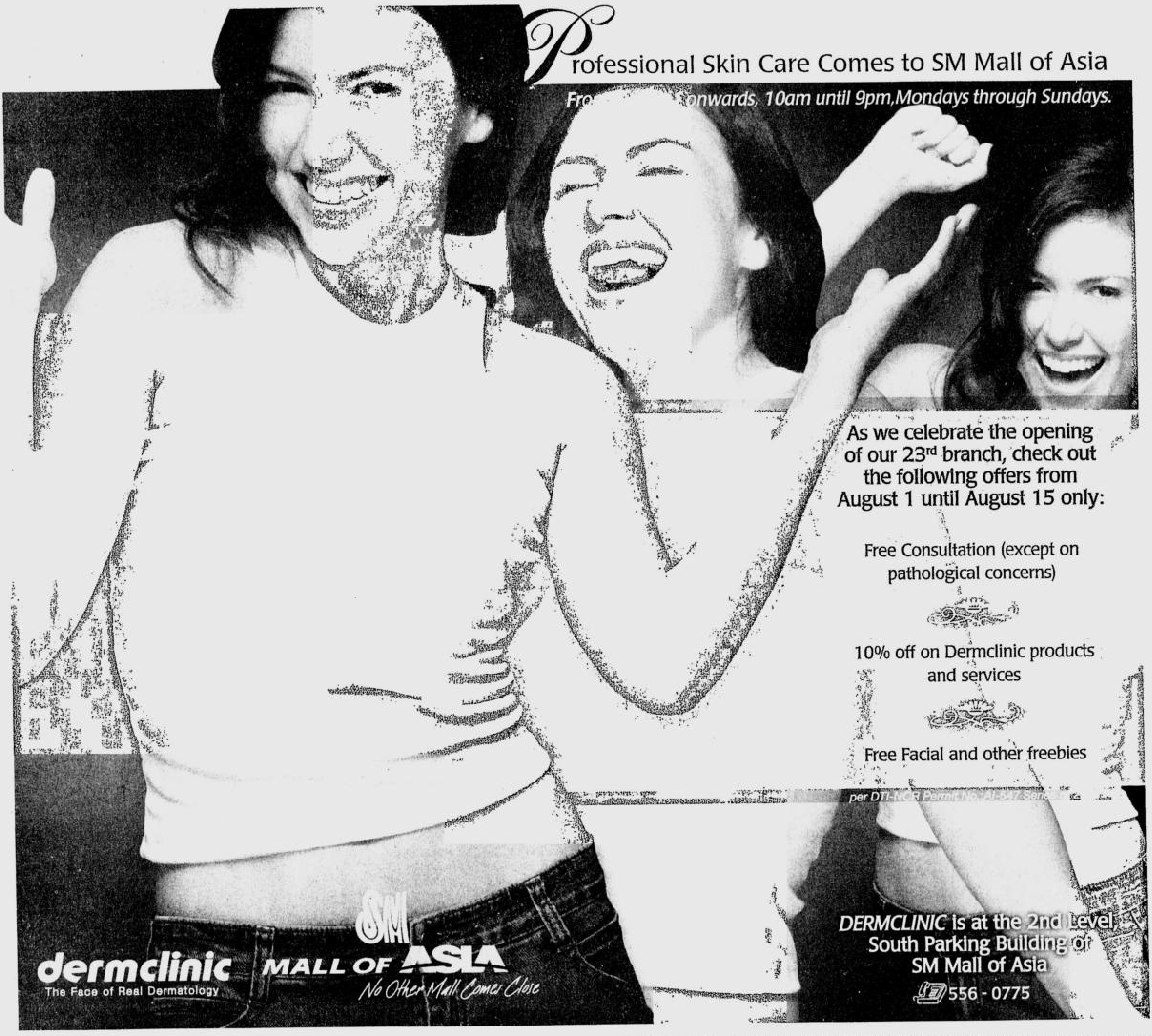
Check the card out, *palanggas*.

Dockers fashion

When you get an invite for a preview of the new line of the popular label, Dockers, you don't think about it,

WORLD'S/ F2

MASTERCARD'S hottest property, man of all seasons Jose Rene "Poch" Villa-Real and, *naturellement*, beauty and brains Judith Dayrit, VP for marketing and member relations in Davao; with Rafael Eloriaga of BPI



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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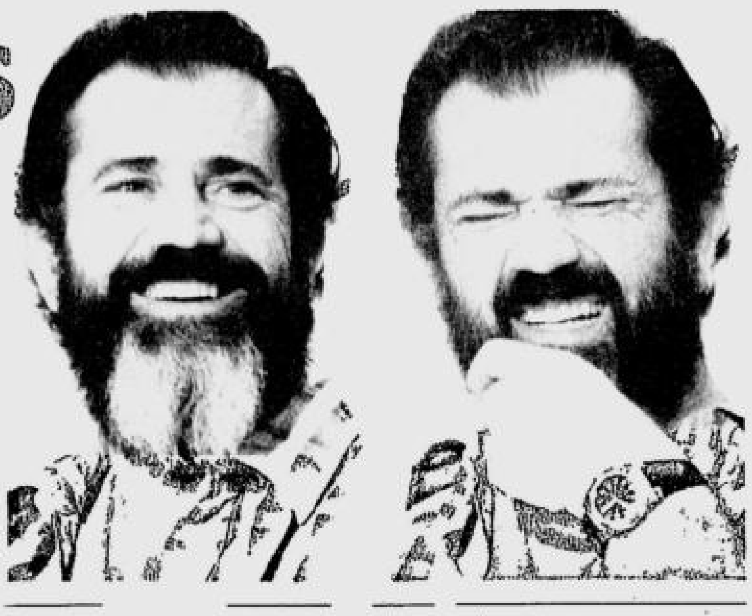
Mel Gibson's moment of living dangerously



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD IS abuzz with the anti-Semitic, sexist and foul remarks that **Mel Gibson** reportedly made after he was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving.

The actor-director-producer was pulled over at 2:30 in the morning last Friday for allegedly driving his Lexus at 80 miles per hour on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. In several separate stories, the Los Angeles Times reported details on Mel's driving arrest. Arresting deputy **James Mee** reportedly smelled alcohol on Mel's breath and found an open bottle of Tequila in the celebrity's car.

The most disparaging remark that Mel is said to have made was, "The Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world." Then he allegedly asked James, who is Jewish, "Are you a Jew?" The 50-year-old "Lethal Weapon" star also was said to have ranted, "F - - - - - g Jews."

Move over, Colin

The star, who filmed "The Year of Living Dangerously" in the Philippines in 1982, is also said to have asked a female sergeant, "What do you think you're looking at, sugar tits?" Mel reportedly swore and said the F word so many times that he made **Colin Farrell**, who likes to say the word in interviews, sound demure in comparison.

The LA Times wrote that the Oscar winning filmmaker made an effort to flee and head back to his car and "verbally threatened the arresting deputy." News stories also claimed that Mel said he would seek revenge against the deputy because he "owned Malibu." At the Sheriff's Station, Mel allegedly attempted to "smash a phone and urinate in his cell."

But what has Hollywood insiders yapping is how Mel's comments will play in a town where majority of the key players are Jewish. Mel is an Orthodox Catholic who built a church in Malibu that is not recognized by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Consequences

The controversy over his "The Passion of the Christ" swirled mostly over what critics perceived to be the blockbuster's anti-Semitic agenda.

Some wondered how Mel's "vulgar" comments will affect the distribution of his next film, "Apocalypto" (Disney is lined up to release it), which will be in the dialect of the now extinct Mayan civilization, or his plan to do a TV miniseries on the Holocaust. As we write this, we just got word that ABC, the American TV network, has canceled the miniseries project with Mel's production company.

In a written statement issued last Saturday, Mel apologized for his "despicable" outburst and claimed that he was "deeply ashamed of everything I said." The Alcoholics Anonymous member added, "I profoundly regret my horrific relapse."

Some detractors were not easily mollified. **Abraham Foxman**, who heads the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), was quoted by the LA Times as saying, "Mel Gibson's apology is unremorseful and insufficient. His tirade finally reveals his true self and shows that his protestations during the debate of his film 'The Passion,' that he's such a tolerant, loving person, were a sham."

Walters' verdict

The issue escalated when Barbara Walters went so far as to say on her talk show, "The View": "Well, I don't know how the rest of you feel, and I usually don't come out this strong one way or another about a movie, but I don't think I want to see any more Mel Gibson movies."

Other key figures who spoke to the LA Times and agreed to be identified as they opined on the anti-

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12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

2 MIAMI VICE
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

3 JUST MY LUCK
12:00 2:20 4:40

4 WOLF CREEK
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 THE ANT BULLY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

8 THE BREAK-UP
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 TAMARA
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

10 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 WOLF CREEK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

3 THE ANT BULLY
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 TAMARA
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5 MIAMI VICE
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6 JUST MY LUCK 12:30 2:50
THE BREAK-UP 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
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METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 LADY IN THE WATER
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

2 SUKOB
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3 THE ANT BULLY
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

4 JUST MY LUCK
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5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
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6 THE BREAK-UP
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7 MIAMI VICE
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8 WOLF CREEK
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MIAMI VICE
2 THE ANT BULLY
3 WOLF CREEK
4 SUKOB

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUKOB
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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1 THE ANT BULLY
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 WOLF CREEK

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Kindly answer all questions completely.
Fill in the missing letters to complete the right answer

1. The creator of the Miami Vice TV Series
M _ CH _ EL M _ NN
2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie
_ OL _ N FA _ R _ LL
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie
R _ CA _ D _ T _ _ BS
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
SH _ EN _ E _ STO _
5. Miami is in what US State?
FL _ R _ DA

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CONTACT NO.:
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1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 NACHO LIBRE
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2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 SUKOB

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1 THE ANT BULLY
2 NACHO LIBRE
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 SUKOB

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

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1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 KISS KISS BANG BANG
4 THE COOLER
5 NACHO LIBRE
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 SUKOB
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
3 UNITED 93
4 LADY IN THE WATER
5 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
6 SPL

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
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SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MIAMI VICE
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
1 MIAMI VICE
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 ANT BULLY
4 TAMARA
5 SUKOB
6 JUST MY LUCK
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
MIAMI VICE
CINEMA 2
ANT BULLY
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SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
8 TAMARA
9 CAVITE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 MIAMI VICE
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 ANT BULLY
4 MIAMI VICE
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 NACHO LIBRE
7 CAVITE
8 TAMARA
9 SUKOB
10 SUKOB
11 THE BREAK-UP
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 CAVITE
2 NACHO LIBRE
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 SUKOB
7 MIAMI VICE
8 ANT BULLY
9 WHITE LADY
10 SUKOB
11 LADY IN THE WATER
12 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 MIAMI VICE
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 ANT BULLY
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 SUKOB
6 WHITE LADY
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
8 CAVITE
9 TAMARA
10 THE BREAK-UP

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 ANT BULLY
2 MIAMI VICE
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 THE BREAK-UP
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 SUKOB

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
THE BLOCK
1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MIAMI VICE
5 SUKOB
6 ANT BULLY
7 MIAMI VICE
8 TAMARA
9 CAVITE
10 JUST MY LUCK
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 THE BREAK-UP

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 TAMARA
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 CAVITE
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 ANT BULLY
6 MIAMI VICE
7 SUKOB
8 THE BREAK-UP
9 WHITE LADY
10 SUKOB
11 LADY IN THE WATER
12 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 SUKOB
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 SUKOB
4 NACHO LIBRE

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1 JUST MY LUCK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

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1 JUST MY LUCK
2 SUKOB
3 THE NUN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 ANT BULLY
6 SUKOB
7 WHITE LADY
8 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CHAOS
2 SUKOB
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 THE NUN

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1 SUKOB
2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 RV
4 LADY IN THE WATER

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1 ANT BULLY
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB
4 LADY IN THE WATER
5 CAVITE
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 CAVITE
4 WHITE LADY
5 SUKOB
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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1 SUKOB
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 SUKOB
4 LADY IN THE WATER

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LOVEWRECKED
5 CAVITE
6 SUKOB
7 SUKOB
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 UNITED 93
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 BATAS MILITAR
7 RESERVED
8 NACHO LIBRE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 NACHO LIBRE
3 CAVITE
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5 SUKOB
6 AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 SUKOB
4 NACHO LIBRE

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Mel Gibson...

From page G1

Semitic comments of the powerful star are Sony Pictures chief **Amy Pascal** who said, "It's incredibly disappointing that somebody of his stature would speak out that way, especially at this sensitive time (in light of the raging Israel-Lebanon conflict)" and producer **Arnon Milchan** ("Mr. and Mrs. Smith") who remarked, "To make all of your money from Jews in Hollywood, and then have a few drinks and say you hate Jews, is shocking...If you are so upset with the Jews, don't work for them."

Accepted

One of the people who accepted Mel's apology is **Oren Aviv**, new president of Disney, which has a stake in the actor-director's coming epic, "Apocalypto." Variety also wrote that Mel has a defender in **Bill Donohue**, president of the Catholic League. The Hollywood trade paper quoted Donohue as saying, "Mel's enemies will never cut him a break. Their real goal is to discredit 'The Passion of the Christ,' and that is why their propaganda machine is in full gear... How ironic it is to note that the core message of his film—forgiveness—is sorely lacking in his critics."

More sparks

Adding sparks to the saga are allegations that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department attempted to withhold details of Mel's behavior, as written by James. The actor appeared in a public service announcement for the Sheriff's Department charity four years ago and has met Sheriff **Lee Baca** a couple of times. At first, officials issued only minimum details of the arrest in a routine report. A Web site, however, divulged Mel's alleged anti-Semitic outbursts and the subsequent efforts by the Sheriff's Department to downplay the incident. The story has been making headlines around the world since then.

Different ways

An LA County official, **Yvonne Braithwaite**, told the LA Times: "Knowing that this was a celebrity, they (the Sheriff's Department) should have been doubly careful about how the report was ultimately prepared. It gives the impression that there may be two different ways they treat people based on who they are."

Another ally

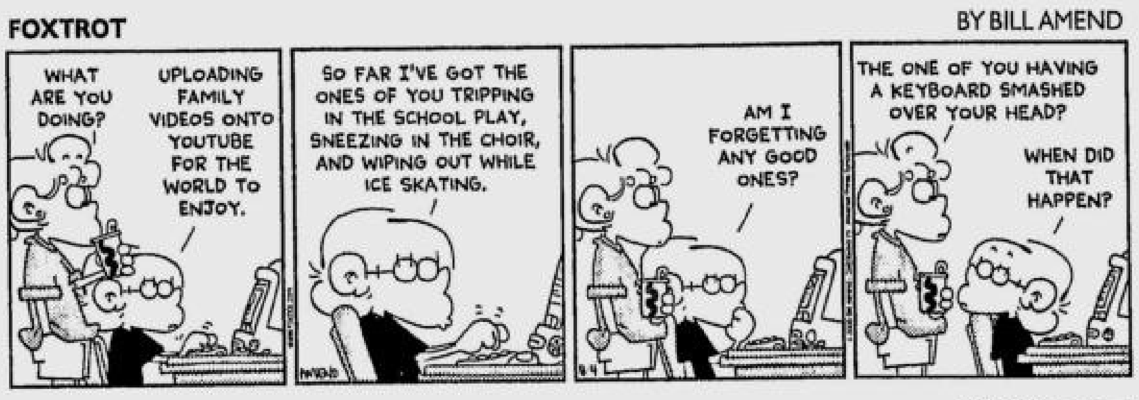
Time will tell how this issue will affect Mel's career but the odds are in his favor. Hollywood is a forgiving town, especially if you come up with a hit or an acclaimed film.

Mel found another ally in **Doug Martinez**, whose marketing firm helped rally "The Passion" to various churches in the US. Doug told Variety: "I look at Mel no different as the rest of us, which is that none of us are without fault and we all make mistakes. But we have a very forgiving God."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585 @yahoo.com.

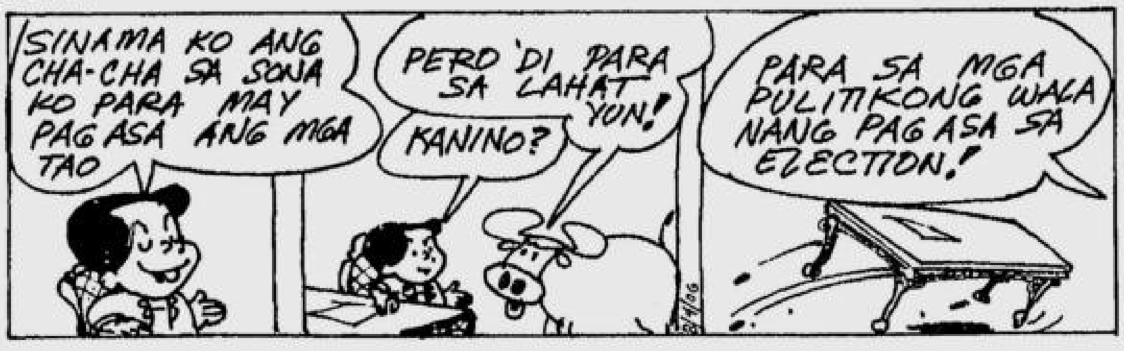
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UPLOADING FAMILY VIDEOS ONTO YOUTUBE FOR THE WORLD TO ENJOY.
SO FAR I'VE GOT THE ONES OF YOU TRIPPING IN THE SCHOOL PLAY, SNEEZING IN THE CHOIR, AND WIPING OUT WHILE ICE SKATING.
AM I FORGETTING ANY GOOD ONES?
THE ONE OF YOU HAVING A KEYBOARD SMASHED OVER YOUR HEAD?
WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?
8-4

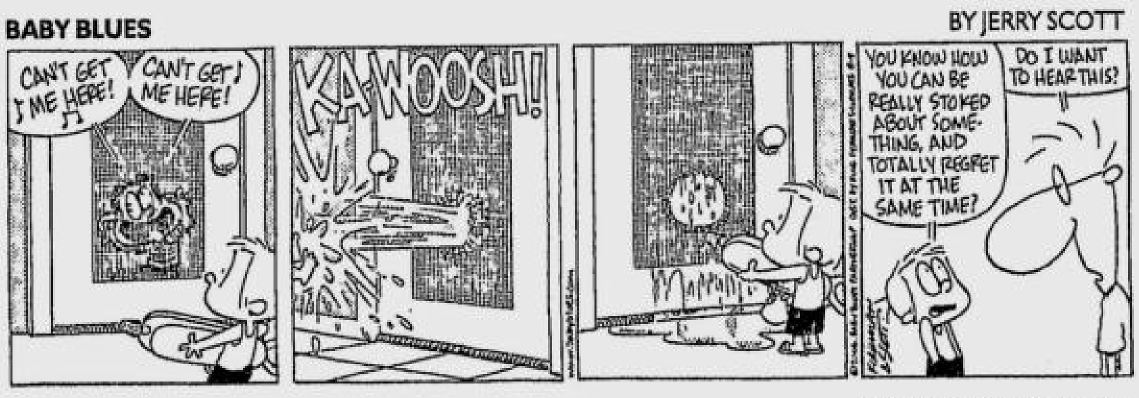
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SINAMA KO ANG CHA-CHA SA SONA KO PARA MAY PAG ASA ANG MGA TAO
KANINO?
PERO 'DI PARA SA LAHAT YUN!
PARA SA MGA PULITIKONG WALA NANG PAG ASA SA ELECTION!
8/4/06

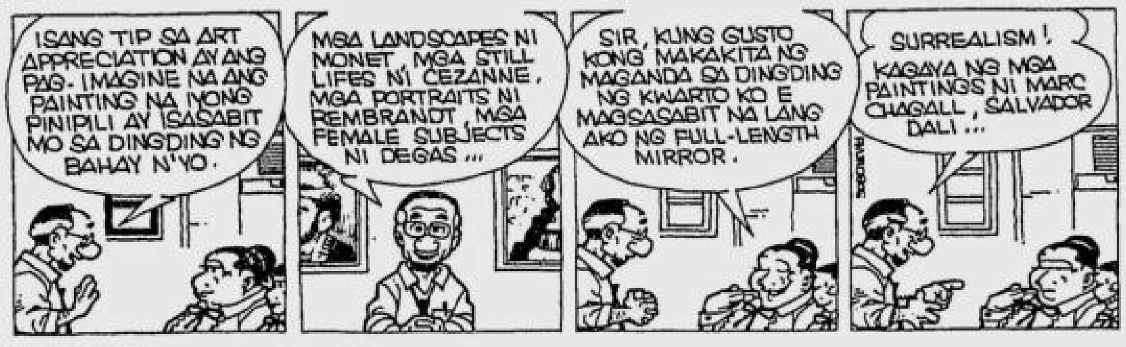
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN'T GET ME HERE!
CAN'T GET ME HERE!
KA-WOOSH!
YOU KNOW HOW YOU CAN BE REALLY STOKED ABOUT SOMETHING, AND TOTALLY REGRET IT AT THE SAME TIME?
DO I WANT TO HEAR THIS?

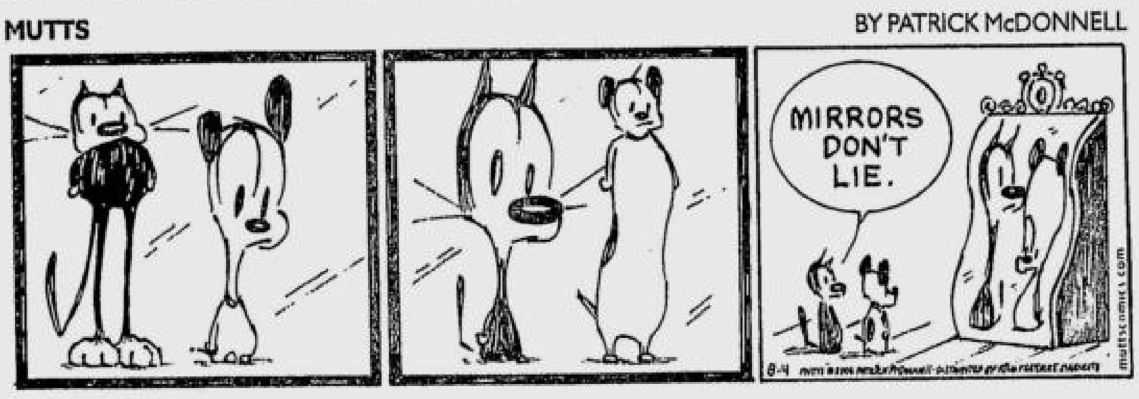
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ISANG TIP SA ART APPRECIATION AY ANG PAG-IMAGINE NA ANG PAINTING NA IYONG PINIPILI AY ISASABIT MO SA DINGDING NG BAHAY N'YO.
MGA LANDSCAPES NI MONET, MGA STILL LIFES NI CEZANNE, MGA PORTRAITS NI REMBRANDT, MGA FEMALE SUBJECTS NI DEGAS ...
SIR, KUNG GUSTO KONG MAKAKITA NG MAGANDA SA DINGDING NG KWARTO KO E MAGSASABIT NA LANG AKO NG FULL-LENGTH MIRROR.
SURREALISM! KAGAYA NG MGA PAINTINGS NI MARC CHAGALL, SALVADOR DALI ...

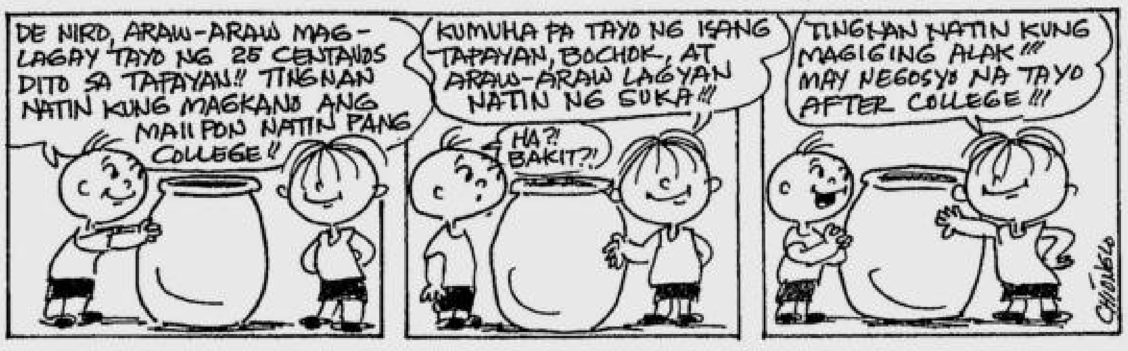
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MIRRORS DON'T LIE.
8-4
muttscomics.com

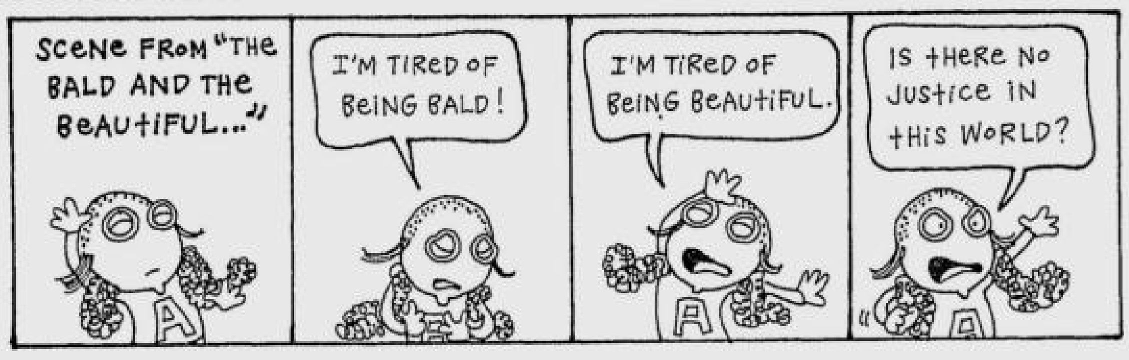
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, ARAW-ARAW MAG-LAGAY TAYO NG 25 CENTAVOS DITO SA TAPAYAN!! TINGNAN NATIN KUNG MAGKANO ANG MAIIPON NATIN PANG COLLEGE!!
KUMUHA PA TAYO NG ISANG TAPAYAN, BOCHOK, AT ARAW-ARAW LAGYAN NATIN NG SUKA!!!
HA?! BAKIT?!
TINGNAN NATIN KUNG MAGIGING ALAK!!! MAY NEGOSYO NA TAYO AFTER COLLEGE!!!
CHIONGLO

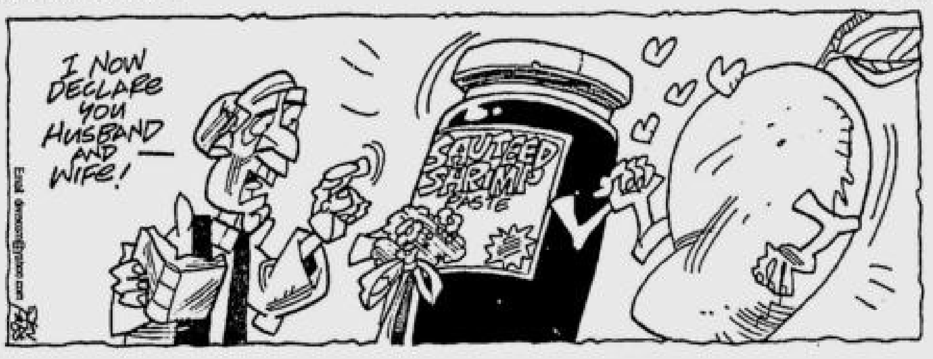
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SCENE FROM "THE BALD AND THE BEAUTIFUL..."
I'M TIRED OF BEING BALD!
I'M TIRED OF BEING BEAUTIFUL.
IS THERE NO JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD?

DIVINE COMEDY

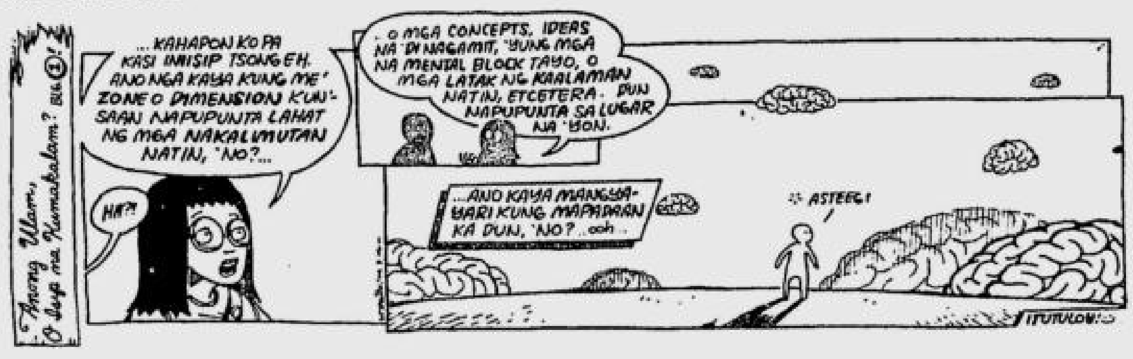
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I NOW DECLARE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE!
SAUTEED SHRIMP PASTE

MANGA AT BAGOONG: A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN

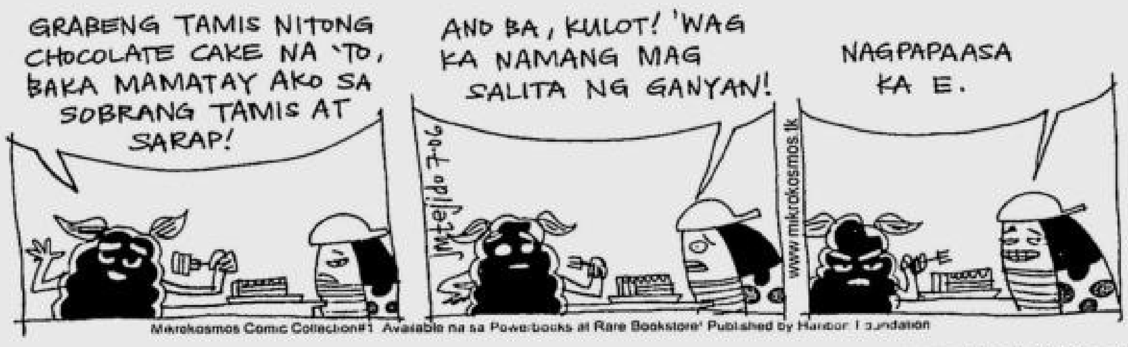
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


"Anong Ulam, O Isip na Kumakalam?" Blg. 2
...KAHAPON KO PA KASI INIISIP TSONGEH. ANO NGA KAYA KUNG ME' ZONE O DIMENSION KUN-SAAN NAPUPUNTA LAHAT NG MGA NAKALIMUTAN NATIN, 'NO?...
HA?!
..O MGA CONCEPTS, IDEAS NA 'DI NAGAMIT, 'YUNG MGA NA MENTAL BLOCK TAYO, O MGA LATAK NG KAALAMAN NATIN, ETCETERA. DUN NAPUPUNTA SA LUGAR NA 'YON.
...ANO KAYA MANGYA-YARI KUNG MAPADPAD KA DUN, 'NO? ..ooh..
ASTEEG!
ITUTULOY!

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABENG TAMIS NITONG CHOCOLATE CAKE NA 'TO, BAKA MAMATAY AKO SA SOBRANG TAMIS AT SARAP!
ANO BA, KULOT! 'WAG KA NAMANG MAG SALITA NG GANYAN!
NAGPAPAASA KA E.
mtejido 7-06
www.mikrokosmos.tk

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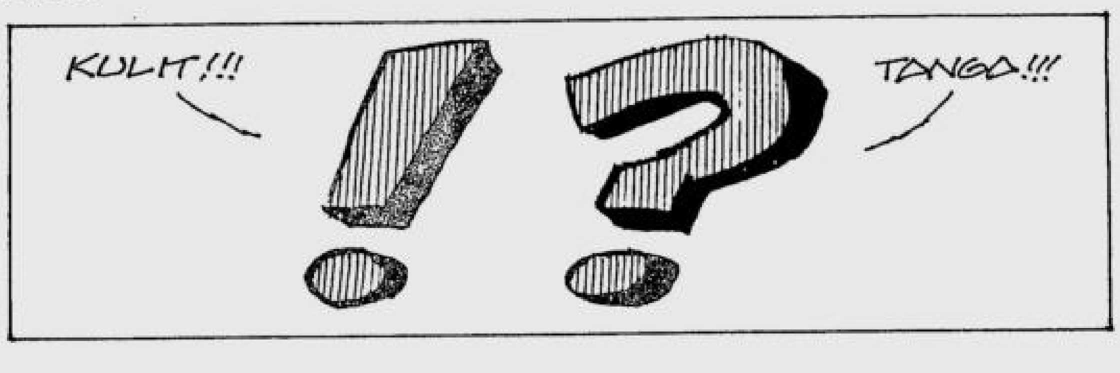
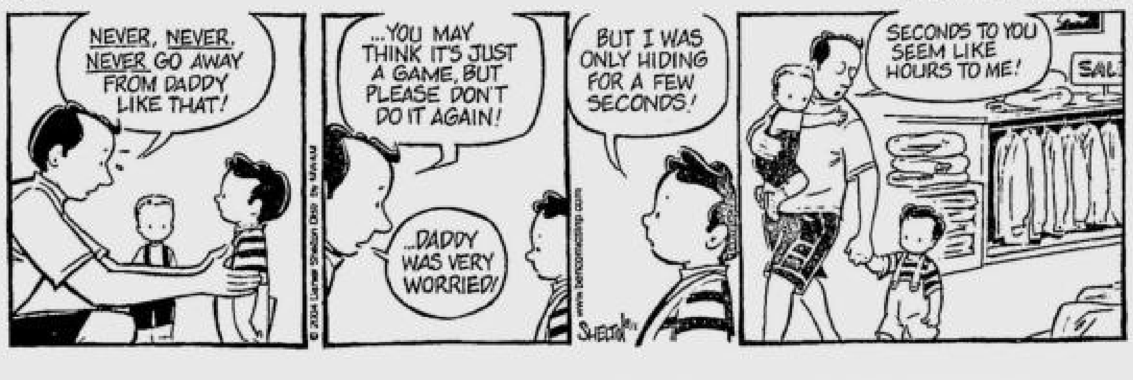
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KULIT!!!
TANGA!!!

BEN

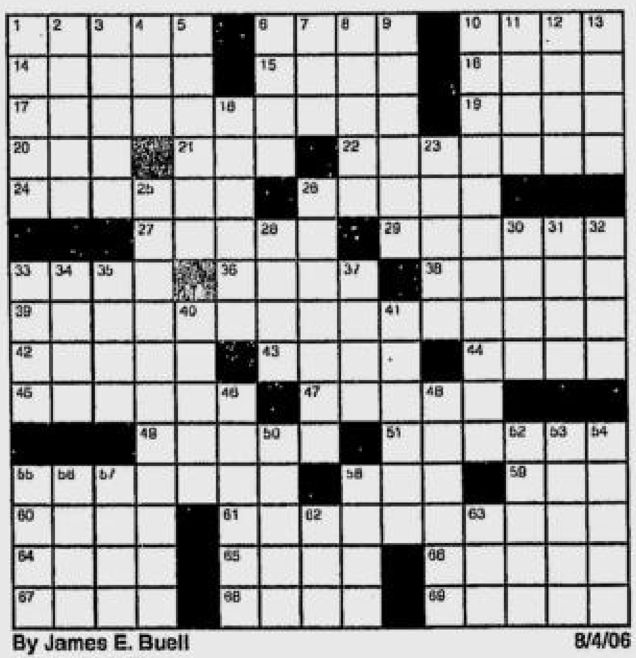
BY DANIEL SHELTON


NEVER, NEVER, NEVER GO AWAY FROM DADDY LIKE THAT!
...YOU MAY THINK IT'S JUST A GAME, BUT PLEASE DON'T DO IT AGAIN!
...DADDY WAS VERY WORRIED!
BUT I WAS ONLY HIDING FOR A FEW SECONDS!
SECONDS TO YOU SEEM LIKE HOURS TO ME!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Klute" star
6 Gear teeth
10 Caroline Islands group
14 Expend
15 Babe's word?
16 Poet Dove
17 Show with projected figures
19 Ice cream ingredient
20 Sniggler's prey
21 Lighthearted
22 __ of hand
24 Lent follower
26 Strong will?
27 Fable writer
29 Small lynx
33 Jai __
36 Organic radical, in chemistry
38 Disney pooch
39 Title for this puzzle?
42 Coral colonies
43 Cola
44 Madcap
45 Preoccupy
47 Simple weapon
49 Actress Anouk
51 Hit the big time
55 Amino acid chain
58 Acrimony
59 Comment from the fold
60 Swearword
61 Hurdling, e.g.
64 Quote as an example
65 Flexible conduit
66 Serenity
67 Redolence
68 Miffed state
69 Saudi Arabia neighbor

DOWN
1 Friction match
2 Tessie or Milo
3 Schon and Hefti
4 Flop
5 Orbital high point
6 Knockoff
7 Texas tea
8 Grind, as teeth
9 Early space station
10 Pioneer
11 Actress Diana
12 Beehive State
13 Mini race car
18 Poland's capital
23 Skip church, in a way
25 Bird's caboose?
26 Sneak-a-peek opening
28 Food scraps
30 Plymouth muscle car, casually
31 Egyptian god
32 Thatcher or Heath, e.g.
33 Hairdo combed with a pick
34 Leopold's co-defendant
35 Frothy quaffs
37 Spartan queen
40 Actor Davis
41 Gray novel
46 Maggie and Keely
48 Annoyingly unpleasant
50 Lay/Skilling co.
52 Construction piece
53 Actress Vivian
54 Corroded
55 "Crazy Love" group
56 What "kills bugs dead"
57 Italian eight
58 "Law and Order" actor/rapper
62 Pilot's gauge: abbr.
63 Peace sign


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69

By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

8/4/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	N	U	G		A	L	G	A		C	R	O	W	E
E	A	C	H		S	E	A	L		R	E	F	E	R
M	I	L	E		T	E	R	I		O	F	F	E	R
I	F	A	T	F	I	R	S	T	Y	O	U			
			T	A	R	E			O	N	S	E	T	S
D	O	N	O	T		D	A	W	N		A	R	E	A
A	R	I	S	E	N		R	O	D		L	E	A	R
N	E	C		S	U	C	C	E	E	D		S	S	T
N	L	E	R		M	O	E		R	A	F	T	E	R
O	S	S	A		E	D	D	A		Y	O	U	R	E
N	E	T	T	E	R			M	E	N	U			
			A	B	O	U	T	A	V	E	R	A	G	E
C	A	N	T	O		R	A	Z	E		W	R	A	P
O	C	E	A	N		A	X	O	N		A	G	U	E
P	E	T	T	Y		L	I	N	T		Y	O	R	E

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8/4/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're clever, creative and witty. You have bold ideas, and you know how to express them creatively in a way that captures the attention of others. Personally, you're rebellious and will revolt against ideas you don't agree with. You love nature and the outdoors. Partnerships matter to you, especially when you're older. In the year ahead, partnerships are your primary focus. Enjoy!
Birthdate of: Percy Bysshe Shelley, romantic poet; Jeff Gordon, NASCAR driver; Barack Obama, US senator.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Right now, all Aries natives are wondering what they should be when they grow up. Don't worry about this. It's par for the course right now. You want to sing your song!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You value home and family. Your instinct to secure a strong home base for yourself in the world is correct. Make sure you do that this year.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Residential moves and job changes are inevitable this year. Therefore, stay light on your feet. Fortunately, this is something you do easily.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good time to ponder what your real values are in life. What makes life worth living? After all, you don't want to be waiting at the train station when your ship comes in.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Buy something interesting to wear. If you feel peppy and enthused about your wardrobe, you feel peppy and enthused about life! (They're connected.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You need quiet time now to contemplate the direction your life is going. Why not write down three things you want to achieve in the year ahead? (Can't hurt; might help.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Discussions with friends are important now. Somebody can help steer you clear about something. Talk to others about what you want. Get their feedback.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a time in your life when you see what is working and you see what is not. This means that you have to keep what is good, and let go of what you don't need. Simple.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is indeed a time of preparation for you. You've got big plans that you want to see materialize in about two years. Keep working on them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Some of you have to get along with less now because partners have lost or changed jobs. Fear not You can do it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Partnerships and close friendships have definitely been challenging lately. That's why some of them bit the dust. It's time to separate the chaff from the wheat.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Continue to work hard. At times, you might feel overwhelmed, but you can do this. Just take care of one task at a time.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

4								7
		5		8	6	3		
	9			2			1	
	2							
	6	1		9		5	3	
							2	
	7			3			6	
		9	2	4		7		
2								5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/04

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	7	1	5	6	4	3	8	9
3	9	6	1	8	2	4	5	7
4	8	5	7	9	3	2	1	6
9	6	7	4	3	5	8	2	1
8	1	3	2	7	9	6	4	5
5	2	4	6	1	8	7	9	3
7	5	9	8	2	6	1	3	4
1	3	2	9	4	7	5	6	8
6	4	8	3	5	1	9	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

IMAGO

MOJOFLY

HALE

SANDWICH

Denimlab Rockfest

THE PENSHOPPE DENIMLAB ROCKfest on Sept. 1 at the Araneta Coliseum will feature 20 of the country's top rock bands—Bamboo, Hale, Parokya ni Edgar, Sugarfree, Sandwich, Imago, Mojofly, Kamikazee, 6 Cycle Mind, Spongecola, Pupil, Up Dharma Down, Protein Shake, Kala, Mayonnaise, Dicta License, Callalily, Juana, Pedicab and Itchyworms.

They will be rocking out in the creations of the Young Designers Guild of the Philippines. A minimum single receipt purchase of any Penshoppe merchandise from Aug. 10 to 16 entitles the buyer to a one-way ticket to rock and roll heaven. For details, log on to www.penshoppe.com.

Winston Wings Tour

Sandwich and **Sugarfree** headline Winston Wings Tour 2006 concert at **NE Pacific Mall in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija,** today. Tomorrow,**Sugarfree** topbills another weekend event at the **EVO Music Venue in Malolos, Bulacan**. Only those 18 years old and above are admitted to Winston events. Valid IDs may be required as proof of age.

KAMIKAZEE

Today

- **The Jerks** performs at **'70s Bistro,** Anonas St., Quezon City. Repeats on Aug. 11, 18 and 25. Call 434-3597 or 0917-8256078 for details.
- **True Faith** performs at **Ratsky's Bar & Restaurant, Malate** branch (and tomorrow night at the Morato branch).
- **Jeans with Jericho Rosales**performs at Ratsky's Morato branch. Call Ratsky's Malate, 5238608-09, Morato, 3739882-83.

Star-studded Urian tonight

SHARON CUNETA AND GARY VALENCIANO are among several stars who will appear in the television broadcast of the 29th Gawad Urian tonight at 10:30 on Channel 9.

Given out by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of film critics, the Gawad Urian is considered the most credible barometer of excellence in Philippine filmmaking.

Produced by APT Productions and sponsored by Unilever, Nestlé, Globe, Green Cross, Republic Chemicals, and Wow Philippines, the Urian ceremonies will be emceed by Ogie Alcasid, Michael V and Pia Guanio.

Cuneta will lead the tribute to Eddie Garcia, who will receive the Natatanging Gawad for lifetime achievement.

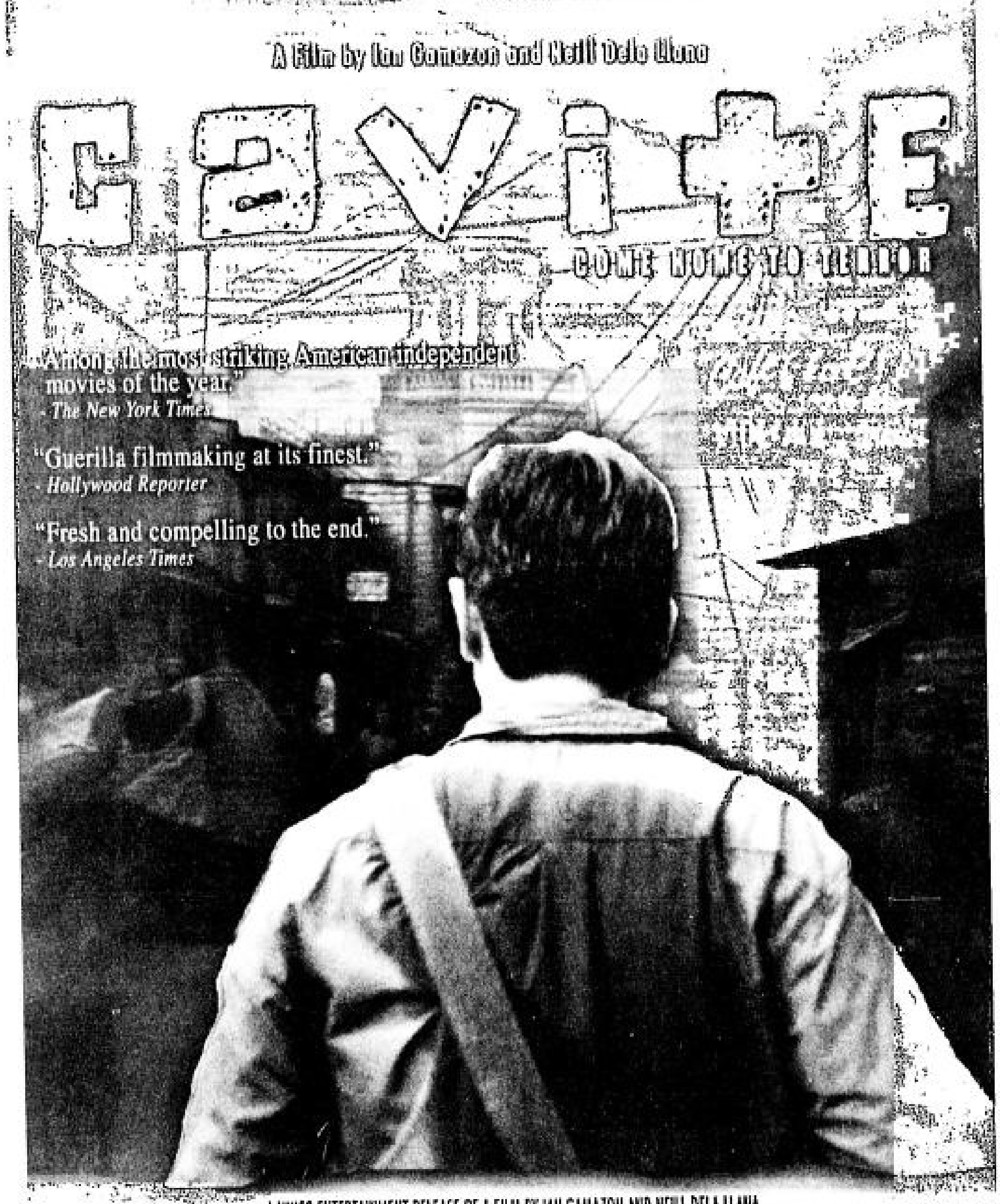
The 85-year-old actor, director and ageless icon is being cited for his more than 50-year acting career, his achievements as a director, as well as his support for independent cinema where he has acted in a number of films by young, emerging directors for nearly for free.

To perform entertainment numbers are Valenciano, as well as Nikki Gil, Sitti, harpist Noelle Cassandra, and April and the G-Force Dancers.

NOW SHOWING

Exclusively at SM Digital Theaters

SM North EDSA, SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Centerpoint, SM Fairview, SM Southmall, SM Cebu, SM Davao, SM Pampanga, SM Clark.


A Film by Ian Gamazon and Neill Dela Llano
CAVITE
COME HOME TO TERROR

"Among the most striking American independent movies of the year."
- The New York Times

"Guerilla filmmaking at its finest."
- Hollywood Reporter

"Fresh and compelling to the end."
- Los Angeles Times

A UNICO ENTERTAINMENT RELEASE OF A FILM BY IAN GAMAZON AND NEILL DELA LLANA

STARRING IAN GAMAZON DOMINIQUE GONZALES MUSIC BY ATO MARIANO PRODUCED, WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND EDITED BY IAN GAMAZON & NEILL DELA LLANA

WINNER

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WOODSTOCK FILM FESTIVAL

2005
BEST FEATURE
HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2006
SOMEONE TO WATCH AWARD
TO IAN GAMAZON AND NEILL DELA LLANA
INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

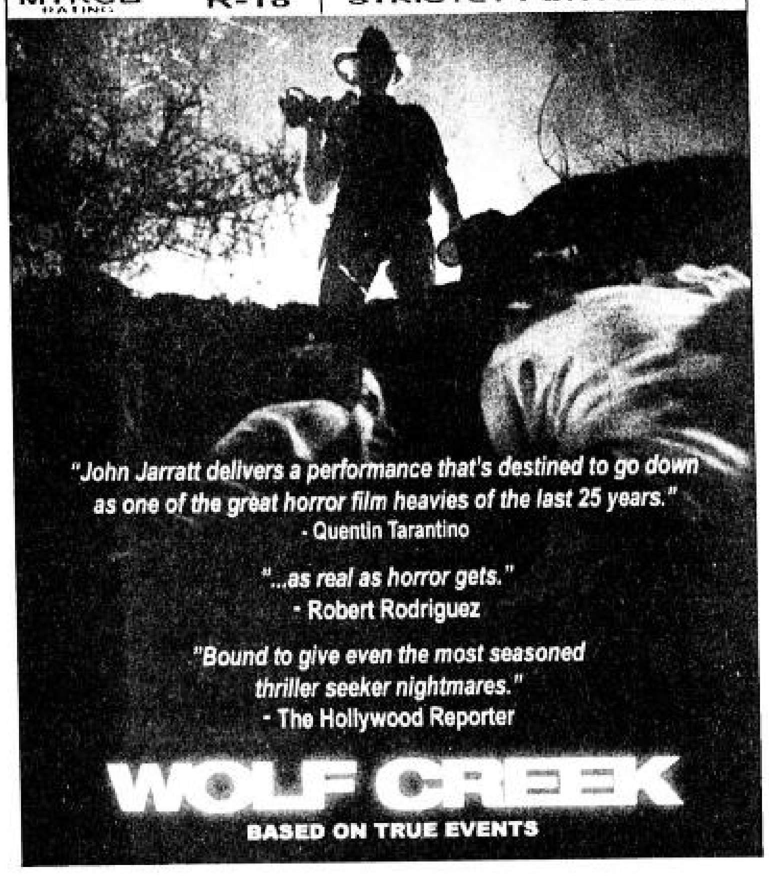
2005
SPECIAL JURY AWARD
SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

2005
SPECIAL JURY AWARD
SXSW FILM FESTIVAL

NOW SHOWING

Robinson's: Ermita, Galleria, Metro East, Nova, Pioneer, Shangri-la Plaza, Rockwell Glorietta 4, Market Market, Gateway, Ali Mall, Remar, Cinerama, Gotesco Recto, Roben, Star Mall, Greenhills, Sta Lucia, Alabang Town, Festival, Metropolis, Masagana Libertad

MTRCB RATING R-18 | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS



"John Jarratt delivers a performance that's destined to go down as one of the great horror film heavies of the last 25 years."
- Quentin Tarantino

"...as real as horror gets."
- Robert Rodriguez

"Bound to give even the most seasoned thriller seeker nightmares."
- The Hollywood Reporter

WOLF CREEK
BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

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AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE ANT BULLY	2 MIAMI VICE	3 TAMARA	4 SUKOB			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE ANT BULLY	2 JUST MY LUCK	3 THX MIAMI VICE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 / THE PRODUCERS	5 WOLF CREEK	6 SUKOB	7 THE BREAK-UP
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SUKOB	2 MIAMI VICE					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE ANT BULLY GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MIAMI VICE GUARANTEED SEATS	3 JUST MY LUCK GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE BREAK-UP GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SUKOB GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MIAMI VICE	2 SUKOB	3 THE ANT BULLY	4 WOLF CREEK	5 THE BREAK-UP		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SUKOB	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 THE ANT BULLY	4 LOVEWRECKED			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SUKOB	2 WOLF CREEK	3 TAMARA	4 MIAMI VICE	5 THE ANT BULLY		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782, from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Hondaworld 2006 August 2 to 6, 2006	Automatic Center Exhibit August 1 to 11, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
The Golden Weekend August 6, 2006	2006 Addidas Street Ball Challenge August 5 & 6, 2006

GREENBELT
Jazz Nights at GB 2
July 26, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents
Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR.
at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 12, 20, 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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AN EPIC BATTLE OF TINY PROPORTIONS!
ant

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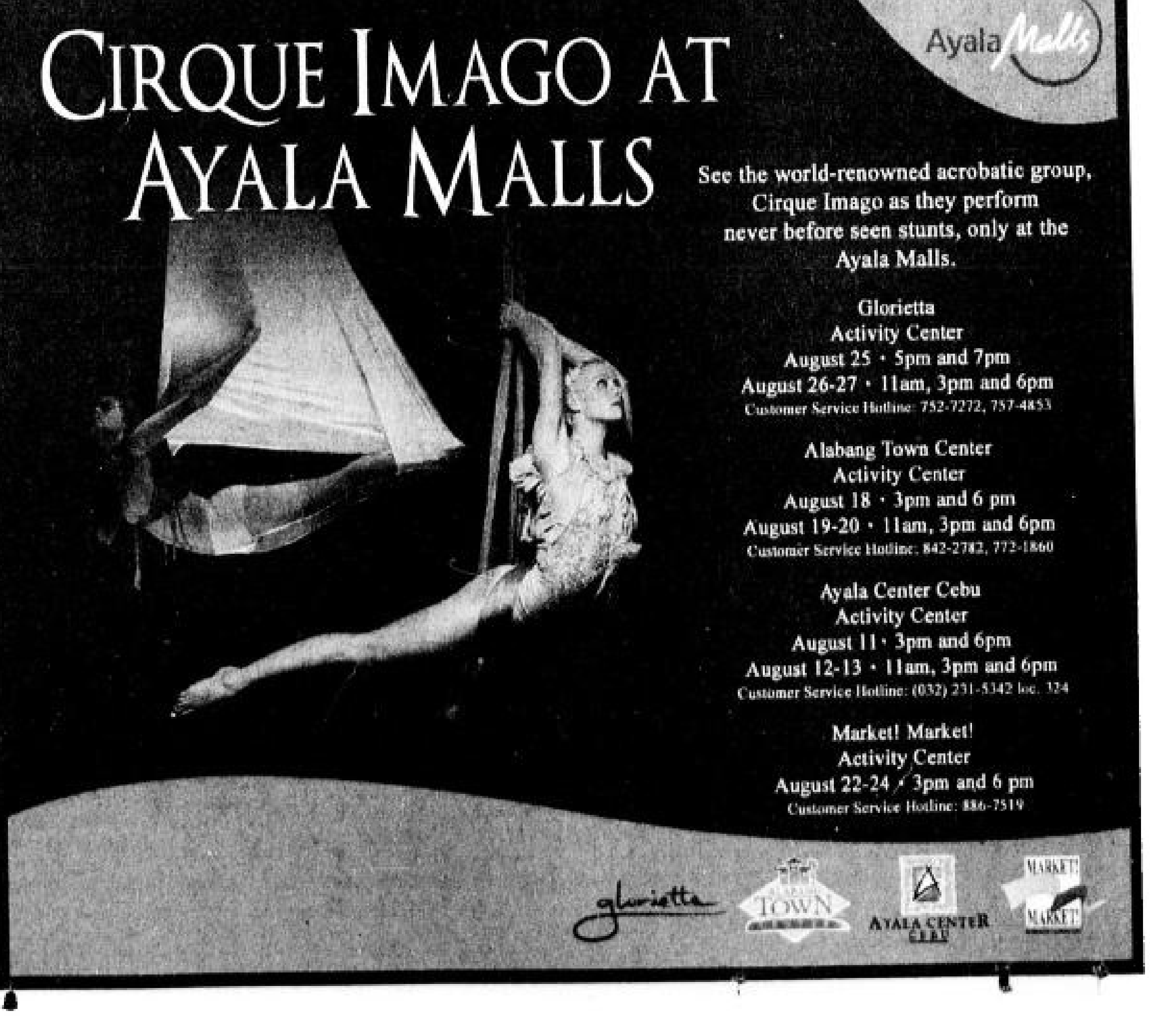

CIRQUE IMAGO AT AYALA MALLS

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Activity Center
August 25 · 5pm and 7pm
August 26-27 · 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Customer Service Hotline: 752-7272, 757-4853

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
August 18 · 3pm and 6 pm
August 19-20 · 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Customer Service Hotline: 842-2782, 772-1860

Ayala Center Cebu
Activity Center
August 11 · 3pm and 6pm
August 12-13 · 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Customer Service Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc. 324

Market! Market!
Activity Center
August 22-24 · 3pm and 6 pm
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7519

LIVING Stars

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

TAIL TALES

Of dogs and cats

DIETHER OCAMPO: "I have seven dogs and six cats. Surprisingly, they all get along fine. Most are gifts from friends. The Golden Retriever is named Downey, a gift from (Bench owner) Ben Chan on my birthday three years ago. The Siberian Husky, Party, is from George Araneta. Party had a pup that I called Uno (after my magazine). I also have a Pomeranian named Tristan. A mongrel—a mix of Shih Tzu and Japanese Spitz—is called Alfred. I also have a Jack Russell Terrier named Pogi. The seventh is a Shih Tzu named Brix. My first cat was Basti, a Persian. Basti's wife is named Mandy. They had kittens that I named Snowy, Shoti, Vanilla and Casty. The Siberian Husky in the photo is Party. I used to live on my own and pets were perfect companions. I used to hide them because pets were not allowed in my old condo unit. Now that I've transferred to a townhouse, my pets have a bigger space to play around in."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

BOOKS

Of becoming a saint

BOOTS ANSON-ROA: "I've had it in my library for a while, but I started reading 'Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux' when I was asked recently to be the pitch person for the St. Therese Columbarium. I've always been a devotee of Christ's Little Flower. She didn't come up with big miracles. In fact, she lived an almost obscure existence as a Carmelite nun and yet it was precisely because of her small good deeds that she had gained favor in the eyes of God. It reminds me that you don't have to be a martyr or a VIP to become a saint. Even if you're ordinary, for as long as you offer everything to the Lord, you can become extraordinary."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

FAVORITE NOOKS

Of constant upgrading

NYOY VOLANTE: "Most of my money goes to upgrading my recording equipment. I stay in the recording studio almost all the time.

When I was still living with my parents, I tore down the walls of the bedroom and built a second floor. I slept upstairs. Now that I've transferred to a nearby apartment, the bedroom, work station, entertainment system and kitchen are all in one place. My mom, (Evelyn, an interior designer) helped me fix everything."

Marinel R. Cruz

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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RINGTONES

TITLE	ARTIST	MONO	POLY
Wherever You Will Go	The Calling	D1 wherever	D2 wherever
Ikaw Lamang	Zsazsa Padilla	D1 ikaw	D2 ikaw
24 Hours	Cueshe	D1 24	D2 24
Kung Malaya Lang Ako	Kris Lawrence	A1 malaya	A4 malaya
Martyr Nyebera	Kamikazee	A2 martyr	A5 martyr
Laban Nating Lahat Ito	Manny Pacquiao	A3 laban	A6 laban
Makulay na Buhay	Jolina Magdangal	E1 buhay	E4 buhay
Jeepney	Kala	E2 jeepney	E5 jeepney
Sabihin Mo Na	Top Suzara	E3 sabihin	E6 sabihin
Buttons	Pussycat Dolls	C1 buttons	C4 buttons
Wish	Michelangelo	C2 wish	C5 wish
Sexy Love	Neyo	C3 sexyluv	C6 sexyluv

LOGOS
B1 SNAKE2
B1 CUTEFLOWRS
B1 SEXYBEACH
B1 ANGELWINGS
B1 GROOVE
B1 RACECAR

PICTURE MESSAGE
B2 TSUP
B2 ROCKETHEART
B2 CRIMEBUSTR
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B2 GOAL

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Can't stop a good time

PARTY! PARTY!

Text and Pictures by Nini Valera

ETHEL RAMOS

NO ONE CAN THINK OF AGA MUHLACH without thinking of **Ethel Ramos.**

Ethel, veteran show biz writer turned talent manager exclusively for Aga, helped shape the former teen idol's career and transformed him into one of local movies' most enduring stars.

On her birthday Tuesday night, it was Aga's turn to take charge of his manager's life—at least for a night.

Aga had Florabel, a restaurant at the Podium, closed to the public to give Ethel a bash—and a blast.

"I'm going to drink tonight," Aga told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Only Ethel's close friends were invited to the party; professional photographers were not welcome. Even so, cameras, including INQUIRER Entertainment's, clicked non-stop.

Wearing her trademark red shirt, Ethel glowed for the amateur photographers.

AGA MUHLACH

"As always, my birthday is special because of Aga," Ethel cooed.

The guests came in droves—executives of ABS-CBN like **Leah Salterio**, PR Director and **Cory Vidanes**, vice president for Entertainment; entertainment writers and editors; relatives and colleagues; producer **Lily Monteverde**; and, of course, the stars.

Sen. **Bong Revilla**, looking every inch a statesman in a grey suit, drank only tea, but he exchanged banter with Aga, who enjoyed his beer.

"Pare, ang bata mo pa, ano?" Aga ribbed Bong.

BONG REVILLA

"Yup. I'm 39. *Bata pa ako, Aga Muhlach ka na,"* replied Bong, who's two years Aga's senior.

Filmmaker **Joyce Bernal** raised her glass of red wine to that.

Last to arrive were actors **Phillip Salvador** and **Rudy Fernandez**, making the circle of Ethel's men complete—almost.

Over at the Aruba Bar on Tomas Morato in Quezon City, **Cesar Montano** celebrated his 43rd birthday, also on Tuesday night.

SUNSHINE CRUZ and Cesar Montano

CESAR AND Annabelle Rama

Ilocos Sur GovernorChavit **Singson**, whom Cesar has portrayed on screen, huddled with the star for an intimate chat.

"I will be producing more movies," Singson told INQUIRER Entertainment. His family owns a movie house in Ilocos.

Cesar's wife, the lovely **Sunshine Cruz**, brimmed with happiness for her multi-awarded husband. "He's a good man," she said.

Media people from Ethel's party later arrived to greet Cesar.

TAPE producer **Malou Ochoa** and **Walden Belen** of Manila Bulletin were drinking buddies that night.

INQUIRER Entertainment's **Dolly Ann Carvajal** came with son, IC Mendoza, who's prettier than his mother.

Annabelle Rama, pretty in black, held court and drank wine with Singson.

Both parties were still in full swing long after midnight. There's no stopping a good time!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 MIAMI VICE
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 WOLF CREEK
PREMIERE
THE BREAK- UP

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SUKOB
2 WOLF CREEK
3 WILD ORCHID-2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 CHAOS
2 NACHO LIBRE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 LOVEWRECK
3 ANT BULLY
4 SUKOB

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4236
1 ANT BULLY
2 THE BREAK UP
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 SUKOB
2 MIAMI VICE
3 ANT BULLY
4 THE BREAK UP

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 MIAMI VICE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SUKOB
5 WOLF CREEK

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604288, 8433994
1 WOLF CREEK
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
4 ANT BULLY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 RESERVED

THEATRES
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
LADY IN THE WATER
SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 SUKOB
4 WILD ORCHEDS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
SUKOB
LADY IN THE WATER
RESERVED
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Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 CHAOS
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SUKOB
2 THE BREAK UP
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 ANT BULLY
5 MIAMI VICE
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
7 SUKOB
8 LADY IN THE WATER
9 TAMARA
10 WOLF CREEK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 NACHO LIBRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUKOB
2 LADY IN THE WATER

Llanas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 MIAMI VICE
4 RESERVED

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 THE NUN
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 BUKID AY BASA
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SUKOB
2 SAPLOT
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
5 NACHO LIBRE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 MIAMI VICE
2 WOLF CREEK
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 TAMARA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 THE NUN
4 NACHO LIBRE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SPL
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LOCK
4 RESERVED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 WHITE LADY
2 BUKID AY BASA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SUKOB PG 1:15,3:25,5:35,7:45,10:00
MIAMI VICE R13 1:50,4:40,7:30,10:20
ANT BULLY G 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05
JUST MY LUCK G 12:50,3:10
BREAK-UP R13 5:30,7:50,10:10
WOLFCREEK R18 2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
MIAMI VICE R13 2:20,5:10,8:00

MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

SHANG CINEPLEX
① MIAMI VICE MTRCB R-13 1:00, 4 00, 7:00, 10:00
② ANT BULLY MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
③ SUKOB MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
④ WOLF CREEK MTRCB R-18 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE THE BREAK-UP MTRCB R-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00
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Caution: Film contains some scary scenes

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
DEAD MAN'S CHEST

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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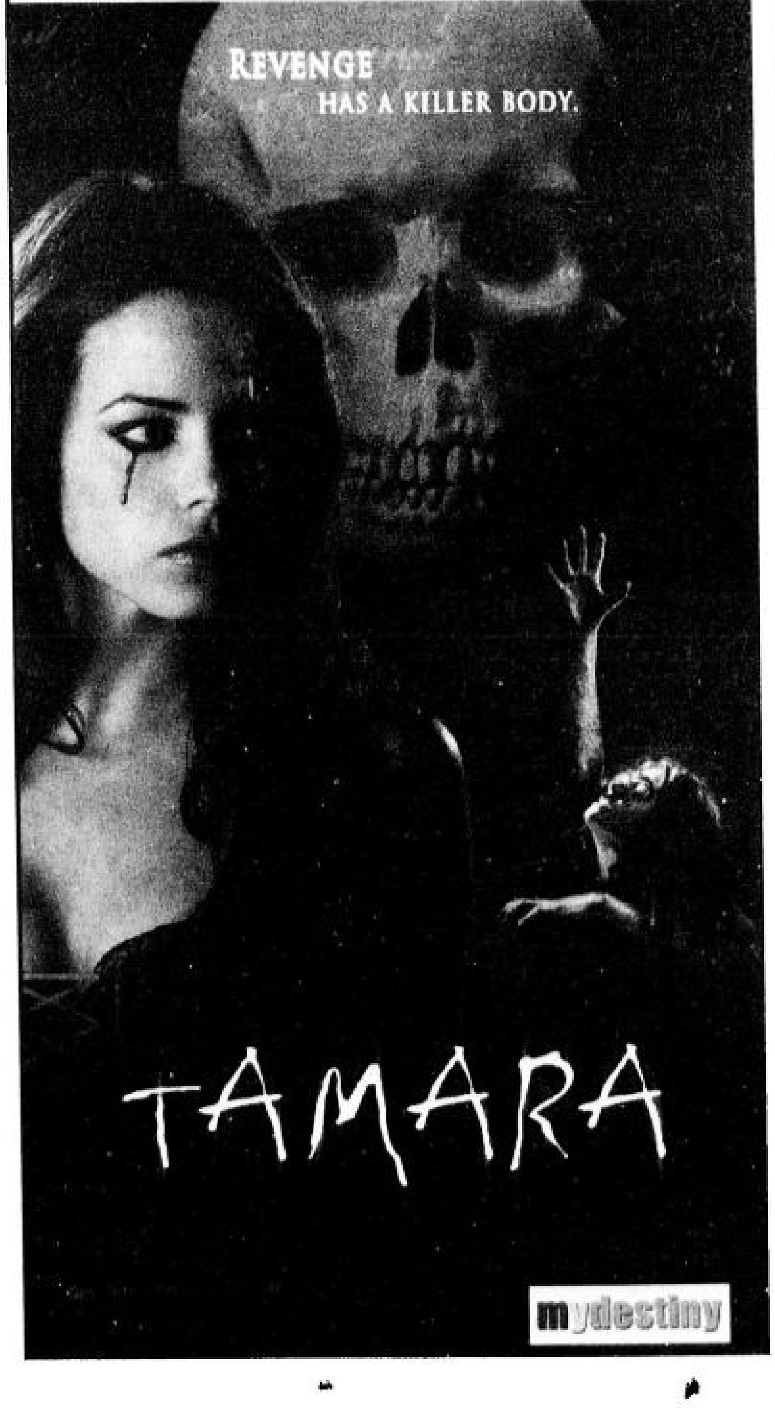
FROM THE CREATORS OF FINAL DESTINATION


REVENGE HAS A KILLER BODY.
TAMARA
mydestiny

Adam Sandler-Kate Beckinsale romatic comedy
LOVE & LAUGHS BEGIN AUGUST 9
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MUTE MOTHER-IN-LAW
SKIP HANGOVER
DELETE PARKING TICKETS
REWIND HONEYMOON
FAST FORWARD WORKING OUT
PLAY TENNIS

What if You Had a Universal Remote...
That Controlled Your Universe?
LIFE MENU
ADAM SANDLER
CLICK
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
KATE BECKINSALE

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CINEMA 1 SUKOB 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 PG-13
CINEMA 2 WOLF CREEK 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50 R-18
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 MIAMI VICE 11:05, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:35 R13
CINEMA 4 MIAMI VICE 10:35, 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 10:00 R13
CINEMA 5 ANT BULLY 10:45, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10.10 GP
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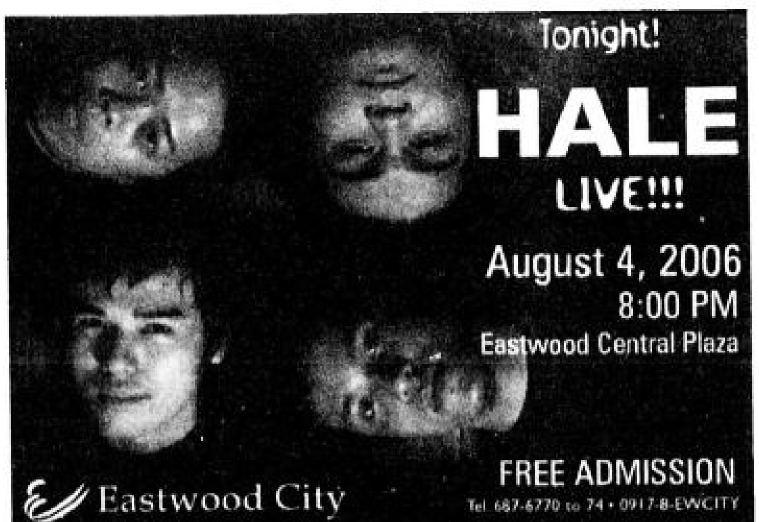

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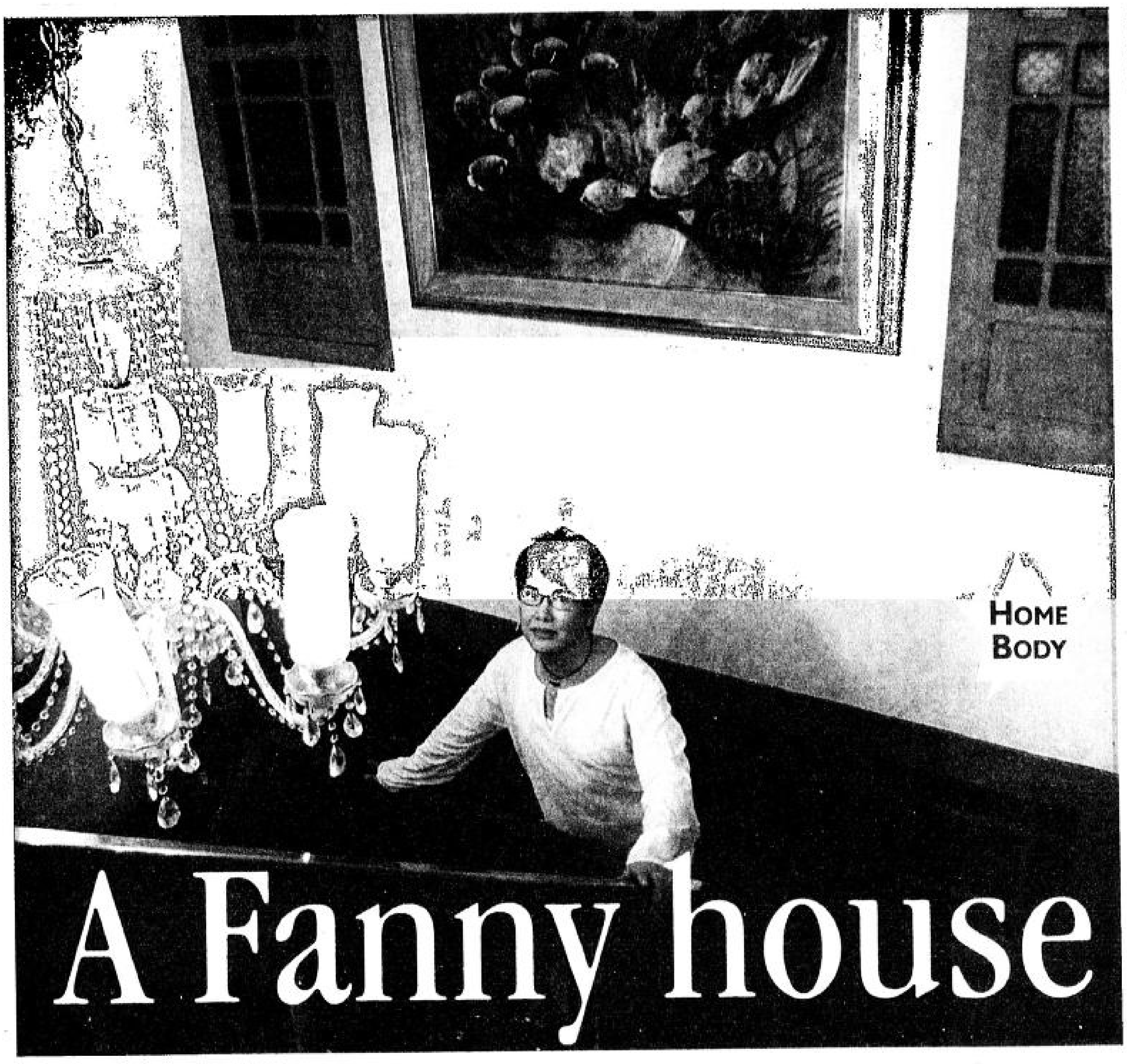
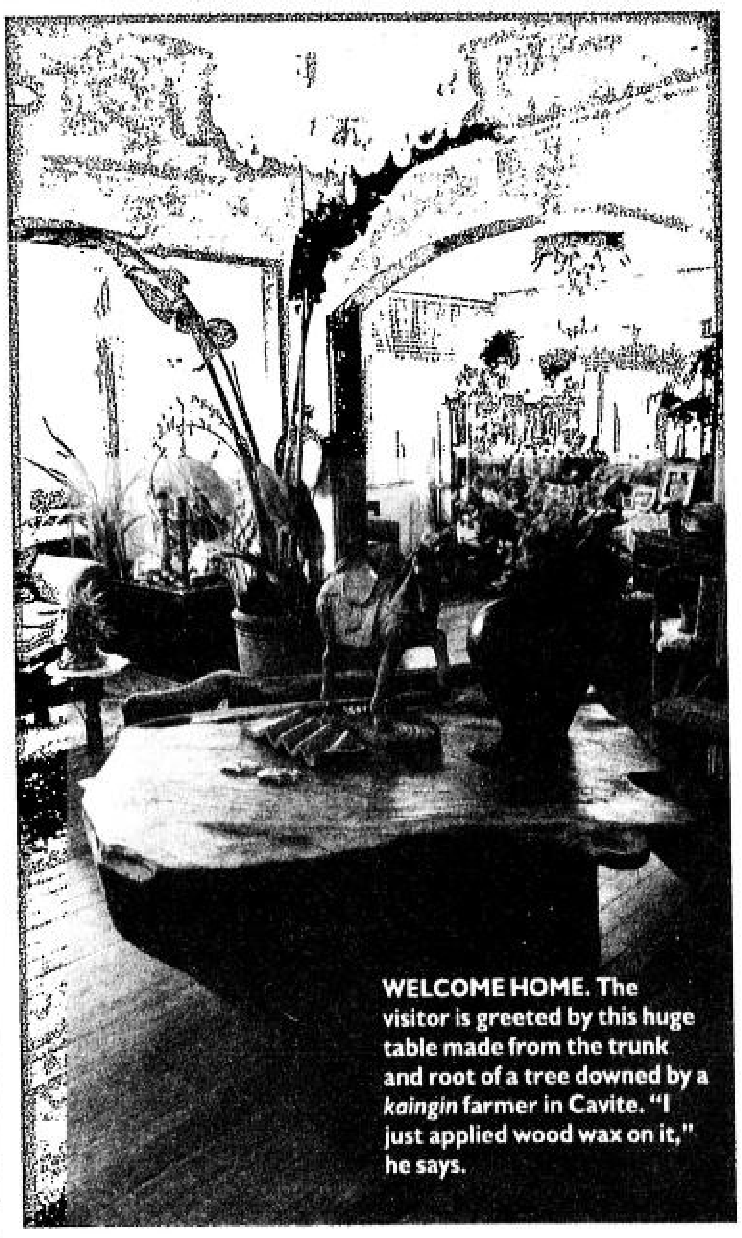
2 MIAMI VICE 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10 R-13
3 THE ANT BULLY 11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:55 GP
4 THE BREAK-UP 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13



BODY ECLECTIC. Fanny combines Asian and Western design elements. The Venetian chandelier is from Europe; the multicolored textured glass windows from a Greenhills *tiangge*. The painting is by Rafael Pacheco. PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

HOME BODY

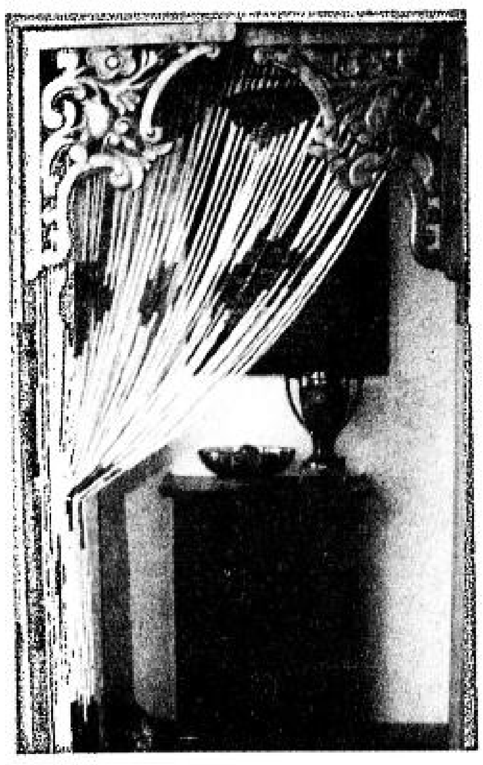
A Fanny house



WELCOME HOME. The visitor is greeted by this huge table made from the trunk and root of a tree downed by a *kaingin* farmer in Cavite. "I just applied wood wax on it," he says.

…that even the proud owner's famous friends love

LT'S CHOICE. Fanny's good friend Lorna Tolentino loves lounging in this living room filled with soft couches.



CORN-BEAD curtain drapes the doorway leading to his private space from the living room.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT LOOKS DIFFERENT EVERY time. Whenever inspiration hits—even in the wee hours—makeup artist-fashion designer to the stars Fanny Serrano rearranges the furniture in his Quezon City home.

"Sometimes my house helpers, in a state of panic, would wake me up saying, '*Kuya*, we were robbed!' I don't have a professional interior designer. I do everything by myself."

Fanny's personal space on the second floor of his salon-atelier reflects his personality. Totally.

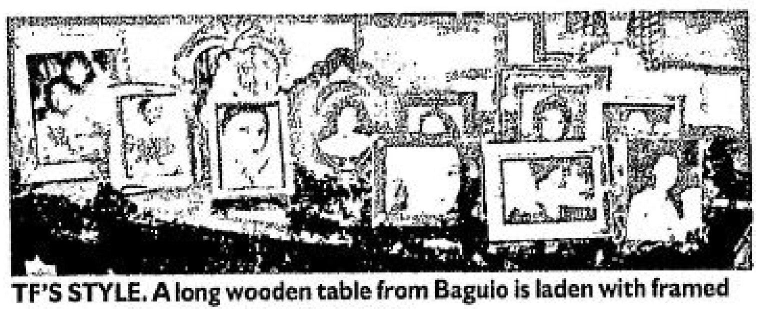
"*Bara-bara* (freewheeling)," is how he describes his design philosophy. "I'm a minimalist-maximalist. I prefer asymmetrical to straight lines. There's a certain energy in sharp angles."

In spite of the eclecticism, he says, "the pieces come together."

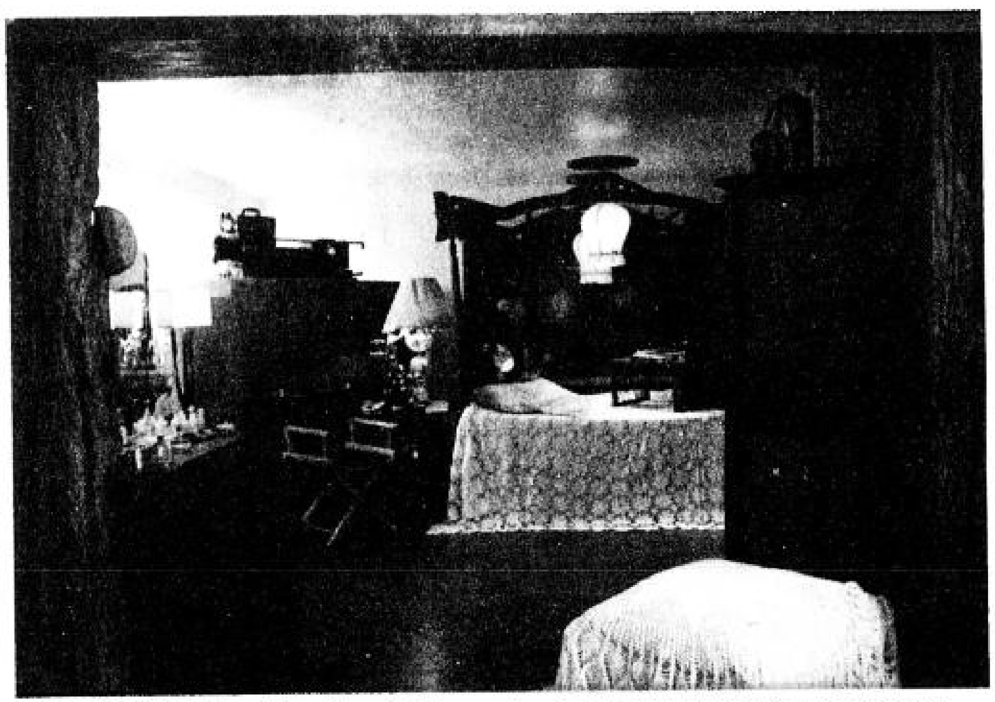
He gets most of his ideas from books, magazines and trips near and far, he reveals. Most of these pieces are from flea markets in Greenhills and Divisoria, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam and Thailand. The pocket garden, for example, is decorated with birdhouse-lanterns from Laguna.

"A piece doesn't have to be expensive for it to find a place here," he says.

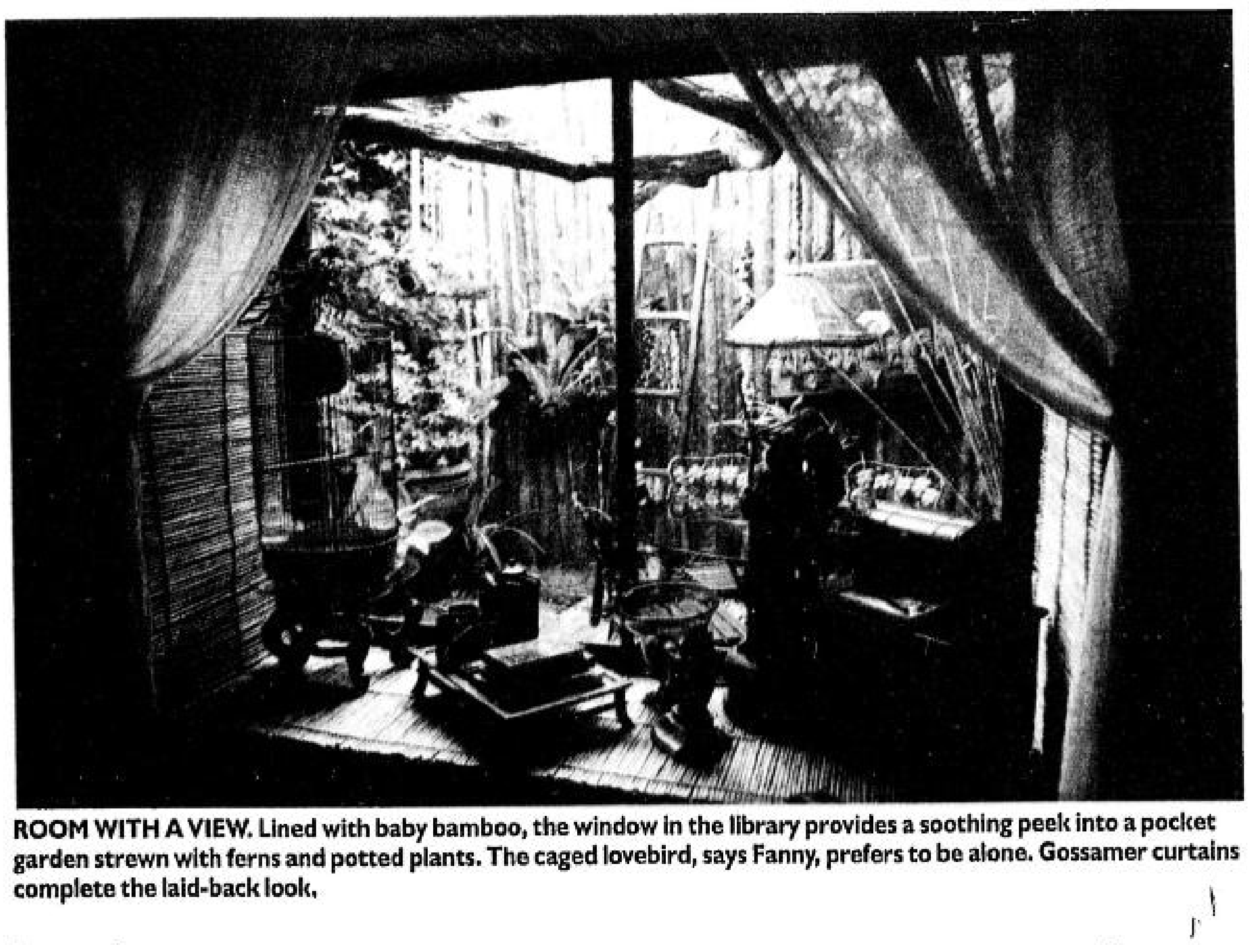
Neither does a visitor have to be rich to feel at home.



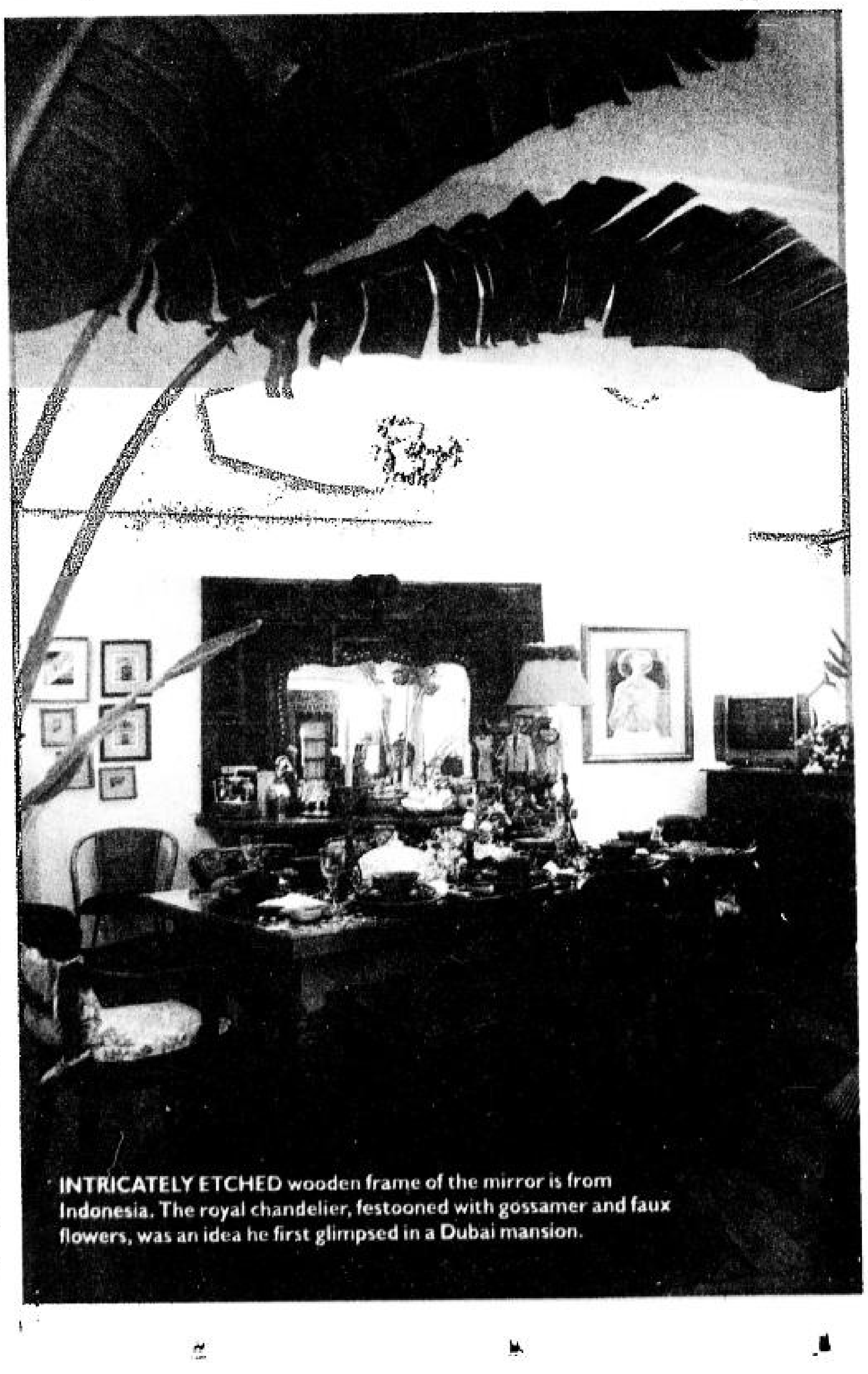
TF'S STYLE. A long wooden table from Baguio is laden with framed pictures of beautiful celebrity friends.



SHARON CUNETA and daughter KC Concepcion love hanging out in Fanny's bedroom, warm and cozy largely because of the crocheted covers. The bed is from the Spanish era, says Fanny. The director's chair is a gift from a friend. The delicately engraved wooden divider by the bed is from India—a gift from his sister based in Japan.



ROOM WITH A VIEW. Lined with baby bamboo, the window in the library provides a soothing peek into a pocket garden strewn with ferns and potted plants. The caged lovebird, says Fanny, prefers to be alone. Gossamer curtains complete the laid-back look,



INTRICATELY ETCHED wooden frame of the mirror is from Indonesia. The royal chandelier, festooned with gossamer and faux flowers, was an idea he first glimpsed in a Dubai mansion.

DID YOU KNOW...

NOT REAL. Wax images of Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and thei r child Shiloh Nouvel Jolie Pitt—make their debut at Madame Tussauds in New York City. AFP PHOTO

Piolo lets his hair down

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT went behind the scenes of Piolo Pascual's newest "Maalaala Mo Kaya" drama special, which airs tonight on ABS-CBN.

This is Piolo's second big "MMK" outing after a pairing with Regine Velasquez in the "Lobo" episode five years ago.

This time, he's sharing the small screen with returning Jodi Sta. Maria, under the direction of Jerry Sineneng.

Piolo told INQUIRER in an e-mail interview that taping for the drama special, which lasted three days in Boso-Boso, Rizal, was "a bit more difficult because of the rains."

It was also challenging, acting-wise, because he is portraying Mel, a dedicated teacher suddenly and mysteriously afflicted with mental illness.

"The story is different, and it's challenging to play someone who's *may sayad* (unhinged)," Piolo pointed out. "I also sport a unique look in this episode. I put on a fake beard, which reminds me of the hair extension I wore in 'Don't Give Up On Us.'"

To prepare, Piolo watched videos of the letter-sender ("MMK" is based on the real-life stories of letter-writers).

"I also watched the movie 'I am Sam,' starring Sean Penn, because the story is similar. Here, a teacher wants to take care of school kids, but is not trusted by other people."

He said he related well with Mel "because I also love kids. So I really enjoyed working with child actors."

Working with direk Jerry and Jodi was also "a pleasure," he said. "I've always admired Jodi and I'm glad she's back."

SNEAK PEEK

ANGING out with young co-stars

"BEARDED" look

DIREK Jerry Sineneng gives instructions.

RED CARPE

CHINESE actress Gong Li arrives at the London premiere of "Miami Vice." REUTERS

REUTERS AFP

SCARLETT Johansson, above, in New York for a screening of her film, "Scoop." Above, right, Penelope Cruz for Berlin premiere of her film "Volver."

BEYONCÉ at the MTV Awards nominations in New York. REUTERS

PERRY Reeves at the Hollywood premiere of "Talladega Nights." REUTERS

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SUKOB 12:55 / 3:05 / 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:35	WOLF CREEK 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:50 / 3:50 / 6:50 / 9:50	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	JUST MY LUCK 2:15 / 4:45 / 7:15 / 9:45	THE BREAK - UP 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40	MIAMI VICE 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

1	MIAMI VICE 12:05 R4 / 2:05 / 5:05 / 8:05	ANT BULLY 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:10 R3 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
4	SUKOB 12:10 R2 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30	WOLF CREEK 12:05 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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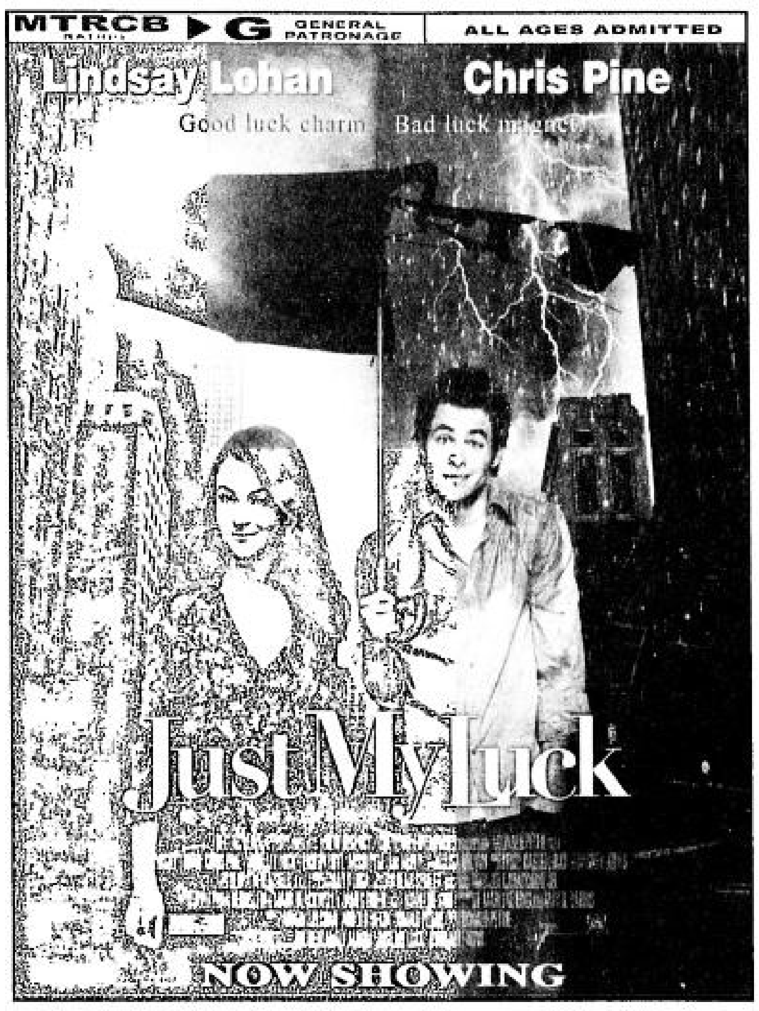


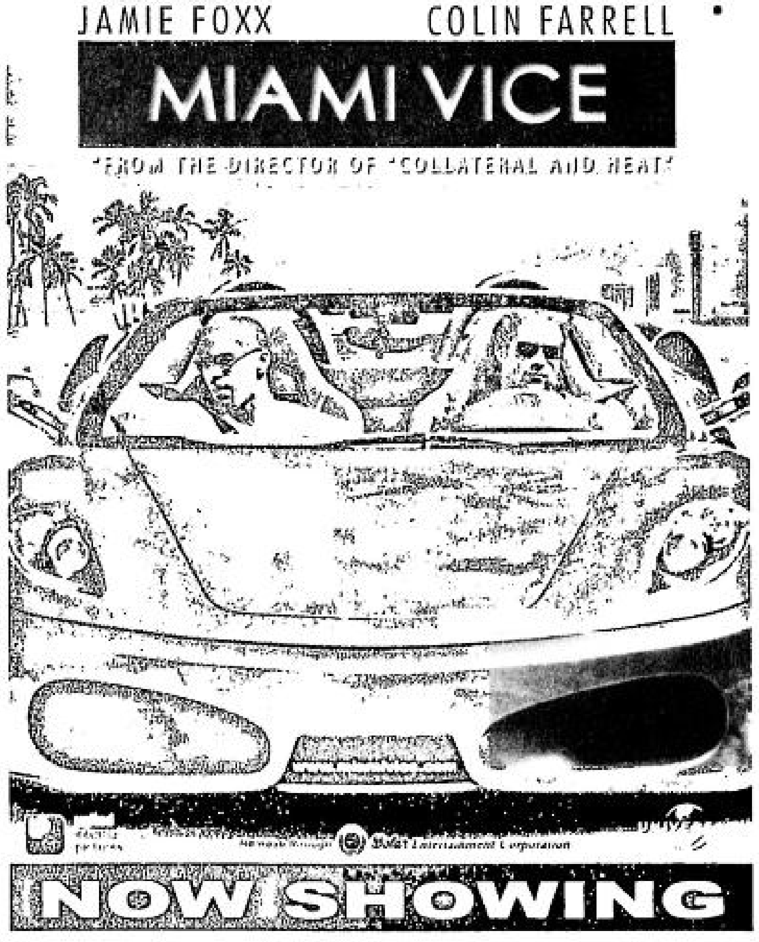
MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED

Lindsay Lohan Chris Pine

Good luck charm Bad luck magnet

Just My Luck

NOW SHOWING



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